Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, what's your level of optimism for 2009?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

101 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

IT&E
Life in Motion

Rebranded PTI

Beginning today, PTI will now be known as IT&E.

LOCAL...Page 17

People's Choice

"The Dark Knight" soared away with every trophy it was nominated for at the 35th People's Choice Awards.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 26

Kilili gets NRC appointment

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan and Senate staffer Allen Stayman talk after Sablan's swearing in Tuesday in Washington D.C. ***See more photos on Page 16.***

Northern Marianas Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan has been assigned to the powerful House Committee on Natural Resources by the Democratic Caucus.

The Democrats made the announcement of initial committee assignments Tuesday, during the opening session of the 111th Congress.

Further committee assignments and subcommittee assignments will be made

See KILILI on Page 4

RUSSIAN TOURISM

At a crossroad

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

While fully booked Vladivostok Air charter flights are proving to be a boon to the local tourism industry, uncertainty looms whether the segment will remain a viable market once Public Law 110-29 takes effect in June this year.

Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce A. Bateman said it will be a disaster if visa waivers are not extended to Russian tourists once the federal government takes over local immigration.

See CROSSROAD on Page 4

Feds to create monument council, with 3 from NMI

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal government will be creating a five-man Advisory Council for the newly designated Marianas Trench Marine National Monument within three months after President George W. Bush's proclamation on Jan. 6.

This Advisory Council will consist of three officials from the CNMI government and one representative from the Department of Defense and the U.S. Coast Guard.

They would be appointed for a three-year term by the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will nominate the three CNMI members to the council while the head of the pertinent U.S. executive branch agency will nominate the

See FEDS on Page 4

DPL found liable to pay $1.8M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday found the Department of Public Lands, as successor of the defunct Marianas Public Lands Authority, liable to pay $1.8 million in compensation to the heirs of Rita Rogolifoi over the government's taking of two lands in As Mahetog in 1976 and 1992.

Naraja

In a written order, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja ruled that the Rogolifoi heirs should be given a total of $1,842,286.02.

For the 1976 taking of land, Naraja determined that a prejudgment interest rate of 7.724 percent should be applied, for a final award amount of $101,017.78.

For the 1992 taking of property, the

See DPL on Page 4

Local

CRM, Zoning team up to inspect adult biz

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Zoning Board and the Coastal Resource Management Office established this week a partnership to perform site surveys and inspections to see whether so-called adult business establishments on Saipan are complying with the zoning law.

The law requires adult businesses to meet new signage and outdoor appearance standards, which came into effect in Aug. 1, 2007.

This is the first time such a team-up between CRM and the Zoning office has been established.

Dr. Elizabeth Rechebei, acting chairwoman of the Zoning Board, said the goal is to create a family and tourist-friendly atmosphere in the business district of Saipan.

She said putting up the right signs would help a lot in this effort.

She said that so-called adult signs only hurt Saipan.

CRM and Zoning staff will be visiting adult businesses in the coming weeks. The staff will identify what changes the adult businesses need to undertake to comply with the law.

The Board said business owners would have the opportunity to review findings and make voluntary changes to signs and other outdoor aspects of their businesses.

The Board warned that if no changes are made, they will have to consider taking enforcement action, including fines or court action.

"You can see how important this is—it is a joint agency project. We are grateful for the support which Dr. [John] Joyner and his CRM team have offered to assist in enforcing these standards," Rechebei said.

To help business owners better understand how the law affects them, the Zoning Office prepared a fact sheet, which is available at the Zoning office located at 2nd floor of Dandan Building or at its Web site: www.zoning.mp.gov.

The so-called adult businesses include many types: adult cabaret, adult motel, adult motion picture theater, adult theater, escort agency, massage parlor, nude model studio, sex shop and sexual encounter center.

The Zoning Office stressed, however, that not all massage parlors are defined as adult businesses.

It said that professionally licensed or certified businesses, which offer legitimate techniques of physicians, chiropractors, physical therapists, massage therapist, or athletic trainers are not considered adult businesses.

There is also exemption to the law.

The Zoning office clarified that massage facilities in hotels that have more that 20 rooms are exempted from the Saipan Zoning Law.

"There are also other factors which may affect the definition of an adult business," acting Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro said.

She is requesting adult business owners to contact their office for help in identifying several requirements for outdoor appearance and signs of their establishments.

Deadline on banner signs extended

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The Zoning Board yesterday announced that it is giving business establishments until the end of this month to conform with new regulations regarding the display of banner signs.

In a statement, the Zoning Board noted that the new Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 signed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Dec. 5, 2008, contains new requirements that would affect all businesses producing or displaying banner signs.

This law prohibits most banner signs that advertise a brand name product, contain a brand name, symbol or logo, or contain a product price.

Acting Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro said she is reminding all business establishments with nonconforming banner signs to comply now.

"The deadline we issued for sign owners, retailers, wholesalers, and all other businesses to remove their nonconforming banner signs has already passed and we provided them a grace period until Jan. 31, 2009," Ogumoro said.

She said the Board is requesting everyone's cooperation to have their non-conforming banners taken down by that time.

Ogumoro said the public and the business community are encouraged to visit the Zoning website at www.zoning.gov.mp or they can inquire at the Zoning Board office located at the 2nd floor of Joeten Dandan Building to learn more about the requirements.

This is also a chance for the public or business owners to know more about other requirements such as structural developments.

For more information on this issue, the public may contact Ogumoro at 2349661 or 2875221 or email her at Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp.

300 cartons of cigarettes destroyed

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Authorities destroyed 300 cartons of cigarettes yesterday that were confiscated from incoming passengers at the Saipan International Airport.

The items were destroyed at the Marpi landfill.

Customs officials confiscated the four-inch cigarettes when passengers, mostly tourists, arrive at the airport, said Customs Lt. Lt. John Santos.

According to law, passengers are allowed to carry only one ream containing 10 packs of cigarettes.

The 300 cartons were accumulated over a six-month period, said Santos, who was accompanied by officer Anthony M. Camacho.

Santos said he is surprised people still try to bring in more than 10 packs of cigarettes at a time.

"Most of them, it's not their first time to arrive," he said. "Most of them have been on island two or three times. I don't know why they still bring them. It's clearly stated on Customs form."

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Fitial, wife to return this weekend from DC trip

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial and his wife, Josie, will return to the CNMI this weekend after having spent the week in Washington D.C., where the two met with several members of Congress and witnessed President George W. Bush sign the legislation creating the Marinas Trench National Monument.

The week began with Fitial and the First Lady hosting a dinner for Congressman Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan at The Palm restaurant in Washington, according to a press release. Sablan was sworn in as the CNMI's first-ever delegate to the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

Tuesday morning, the governor and Josie met with U.S. Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa), a ranking member of the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration.

"Fitial discussed matters involving immigration and the minimum wage were discussed at great length with Representative King," the press release stated.

The two then joined others from the CNMI at Sablan's office to celebrate his swearing in, which occurred at 2pm Tuesday.

"The 2pm hour on Tuesday was an important hour for the CNMI," the press release said. "At that hour, the Speaker of the House was congratulating Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan on becoming the first Congressional representative from the CNMI; while across town at The White House, the President of the United States was congratulating Governor Benigno Fitial for his leadership in the CNMI and specifically his effort to spearhead pro-CNMI initiatives which led to a successful negotiation for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument."

After the signing, Fitial and his wife returned to Sablan's open house, before meeting with U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

"In an hour-long meeting, the Governor and Senator Murkowski talked at length about the immigration issue; the effect of the minimum wage increase on the CNMI people and economy, the visa waiver matter, and many other CNMI-related issues," the press release said.

The governor and first lady continued their meetings with other U.S. legislators on Wednesday. On that day the two met with U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), chairwoman of the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, where they discussed how the immigration issue will affect the CNMI and how they can work together for the CNMI, according to the release.

Also on Wednesday, the two met with officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior, including Douglas W. Domenech, Deputy Chief of Staff and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, and Nikolao I. Pula, the Director of the Office of Insular Affairs.

Fitial and Josie then met with U.S. Rep. Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa "to thank him for his years of hard work and commitment to the people of the CNMI prior to the CNMI electing its first congressman this year," the release stated.

The two will have a few more meetings before leaving Washington and heading to San Diego, California, where they will meet with Joel Bergsma, Fitial's special legal counsel.

Gov. Benigno Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial witness President George Bush's signing of the proclamation designating the three national marine monuments Tuesday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Police rescue two stranded boats

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Boating Safety Unit officers rescued two stranded boats, including one that had several tourist passengers, east of Managaha Island Wednesday morning.

All the boats' occupants were found to be in good condition, according to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro yesterday.

Ogumoro said that, on Wednesday at 9:40am DPS received a call about two distressed vessels at the B29 Dive Spot, which is located east of Managaha.

DPS Boating Safety officers launched rescue boat *Zodiac III*. The rescuers later met with Jude Palacios, a captain of one of the stranded boats, at B29 Dive Spot.

Palacios told the officers they were in good condition and pointed north where the second distressed boat was anchored.

The officers arrived alongside the second boat where they met with its captain, Mark Anthony Hapdei, who was with several Japanese tourists.

Police learned that the boat was having engine problems. The boat, a 24-foot vessel with 120 horsepower outboard engine, was secured by the officers and towed back to Saipan.

During inspection of Hapdei's boat, the officers found that it had no flares on board.

Ogumoro said Hapdei was issued a citation for not having the proper safety equipment.

Hapdei told police he departed Smiling Cove with several Japanese tourists to engage in scuba diving at B29 Dive Spot.

At 9:30am, they arrived at the dive spot. Several minutes later, Hapdei saw Palacios waving his hands and shouting for help as his boat had drifted away from where he and several individuals were diving.

Hapdei immediately rendered assistance to the boat. After helping Palacios retrieve the vessel, he discovered that his own boat was encountering engine problems.

Police were then notified, Ogumoro said.

Water shortages continue to plague Saipan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Water shortages in several areas on Saipan remain a big problem among residents, according to the Office of the Mayor.

"We are doing everything to address this problem," said Mayor Juan B. Tudela during a news briefing yesterday.

Tudela said he has been authorized to collect water from two designated areas.

Accordingly, there are only two areas on Saipan that the supply of water has quite improved at present. These are Susupe and Chalan Kanoa, while supplies in other areas have not been enough.

The Mayor's Office is using only one truck to serve areas where the water supply is very weak.

"The truck is doing this on a daily basis," the Mayor said.

Meanwhile, the office is also faced with problems in maintaining roads, primarily in interior areas around Saipan.

"We are doing the secondary road repair. It's very often that [every week], there is a request for repair especially on rainy days," he said.

Tudela said their equipment are already quite old and they have to purchase spare parts just to make sure that these will not pose any danger.

For instance, he said that they have only one boom truck to haul junk cars for disposal.

"The boom truck is no longer reliable at this time so it would take 30 more days before we can go back to hauling junk cars. We will not risk our personnel with an unreliable truck," he said.

His staff has also been undertaking bush cutting and tree cutting along the island's main thoroughfares.

Tudela reminded the public that trees should not be cut down if there is a power line nearby but they can request the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to do so.

FEDS

From Page 1

other two.

The Mariana Monument Advisory Council will provide advice and recommendations on the development of management plans and management of the monument.

Based on the official proclamation document, the council will adopt procedures to govern its activities.

The proclamation states that "each participating agency shall be responsible for the expenses of its representative and the departments of the Interior and Commerce shall be equally responsible for the costs of the Advisory Council."

Bush also directed the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to prepare in the next two years management plans within their respective authorities and promulgate implementing regulations that address any further actions necessary for the proper care and management of the monument.

Both Secretaries will also designate and involve as cooperating agencies the agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise, including the Department of Defense, the Department of State.

CROSSROAD

From Page 1

"If that's true, that will cause serious economic damage to the CNMI. We rely more and more heavily on the Russian tourist market, which grows ever larger all the time. While their numbers grow, it seems as if we've been getting higher and higher quality tourists from Russia…they stay longer… and they are far more free spending. It's just a higher end market that come here from eastern Russia and even from the central part of the former Soviet Union."

Bateman said he couldn't start to fathom the impact the loss of Russian tourists will have on the Commonwealth's visitor industry.

"All of the hard work our travel partners—the hotels here, their agents in Russia—the past 10 years will all go down the drain. Same is true with China, the largest travel market in the world."

Kanae Quinn, Pacific Islands Club sales and marketing director, said if Russian tourists are required to obtain a U.S. visa after June 2009, the whole process of bringing them into the CNMI will become more time-consuming and costly than the current VEP system.

"Basically, anything that impedes Russian visitors to travel to the CNMI will directly impact the number of travelers to the island. PIC has witnessed the growth of the Russian market since 1996 and the anticipated abrupt decline in June will certainly affect the resort in terms of room nights and revenue," she said.

Hyatt Regency Saipan marketing communications assistant/GSO sales Le Shen seconded Quinn's assessment and said the loss of the Russian tourists will effectively cut off from the CNMI a very promising segment of the travel market.

"For our hotel, Russian business has increased a lot compared with 2006, 2007, which covered some lost business from the Japan and Korea market due to economic crisis. I can only say we will lose big revenue from this market, not only for Hyatt, [but] for the whole island as well. But we all have to wait and see…"

But PIC and the rest of the tourism players on the island are not letting it happen without a fight.

Quinn said that, as a member of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Marianas Visitors Authority, PIC has aligned with these two organizations to promote the U.S. visa waiver for the Russian tourists.

"Since tourism is the only sustainable industry, we, as an island, need to persuade the federal government to carefully consider the consequences of not allowing the Russians or Chinese tourists to continue to travel to the CNMI."

Charles Reyes, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary, said all is not lost and his boss is trying to persuade the federal government to extend visa waivers not only to Russian tourists wishing to come to the CNMI but Chinese tourists as well.

"The governor is working with our new delegate and our local business community to address this matter with federal policy makers in Washington, D.C. The governor is in Washington, D.C. right now working to raise awareness of the importance of the Russian and Chinese tourism markets for the CNMI. The governor respects the federal government's concern for national security but we must find a way to protect U.S. national security without severely compromising the CNMI's economic security, particularly in this distressed economic environment."

But if no visa waivers are granted, Quinn said the CNMI will just have to face reality and survive with what remaining market it has.

"The alternative is to seek other markets in the region that are included in the U.S. visa waiver program in addition to working with our Russian agents whose clientele already have U.S. visas," she said.

Fiscal year to date numbers show that the Russian tourism market is up 86 percent from the same period year ago—449 in October 2007-November 2008 to 836 in the same period in fiscal year 2009. Just last month, 456 visitors from the former Soviet Union arrived in the CNMI, compared to 261 in November 2007.

DPL

From Page 1

judge said a prejudgment interest rate of 6.991 percent should be applied, for a final award amount of $1,741,268.24.

In the same decision, Naraja ordered DPL to remit to the court over $500,000 in rental payments collected from respective lessees of the lands under the lease agreements with the former MPLA.

Naraja determined that as of March 31, 2008, MPLA collected $209,912.50 in rent under the original lease with the former Micronesian Telecommunication Corp. (now PTI).

He determined that as of Dec. 31, 2007, MPLA collected $195,348.36 in rent under the original lease with Saipan Ice Inc.

The judge also established that as of Dec. 31, 2007, MPLA obtained $121,395.53 in rent under the original lease with Commercial Trading of Saipan.

"This court, through the expert testimony of [financial adviser Daniel] Webb, has been shown that a reasonably prudent person with invested funds received in 1976 will have generated a return of 7.724 percent per year," Naraja said.

Furthermore, he said, a reasonably prudent person could have invested funds received in 1992 and generated a return of 6.991 percent per year.

"Even in light of the significantly lower land values today, it is not a windfall to receive what a reasonably prudent person could have generated through moderately conservative investments if the Commonwealth would have made prompt payment for the land taking," Naraja pointed out.

According to court records, in 2005 MPLA's board of directors sued the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the agency that administers the Division of Land Registration and Survey, and the heirs of Rita Rogolifoi. It also sued the then DLRS director.

The MPLA board accused the DLRS director of conducting arbitrary land surveys that benefited the heirs of Rogolifoi to public land.

The complaint alleged that a certificate of title in favor of Rogolifoi was issued in December 2004 and described the aggregate area of three lots as 33,927 square meters, but that in January 2005 the title was amended to increase the aggregate size to 44,943-sq.m.

But the heirs of Rogolifoi, through administrator Enrique K. Seman, filed a counter-claim against MPLA.

In March 2006, Seman even threatened he would block Middle Road in front of Saipan Ice that, according to him, belongs to them and was taken by the government for public use.

Seman claimed that over 1,000 square meters of their 4.4 hectares were used by the government for the road.

He said that for over 50 years now, his relatives have been fighting to get compensation for the taking of their property.

KILILI

From Page 1

as the Congress completes its organizational process.

The Natural Resources Committee is responsible for federal policy over the United States insular areas.

"Having representation on this committee is going to give the people of the NMI a real voice in Congress on the issues that matter to us," said Sablan. "It's important that we are there. This is the committee the delegate bill started in. This is the committee that oversaw the drafting of our Covenant, which brought our islands into the American political family. And now we come full circle and join the committee that drafted our Covenant."

In addition to federal policy on insular issues, the Committee on Natural Resources handles many other issues central to Sablan's agenda in the 111th Congress. The committee has oversight over the nation's resources, including energy resources.

"It is most important that the NMI finds its way out of dependence on foreign oil and into a sustainable energy future," said Sablan. "And being on Natural Resources will help with that critical problem."

Committee chair Nick J. Rahall (D-W.V.) has made the promotion of renewable energy resources one of the committee's priorities over the next two years.

Another of Rahall's priorities is greater autonomy for the insular areas. In the official statement of the committee's agenda for the 111th Congress, Rahall wrote that, "As a nation, we have a responsibility to foster sustainable development; providing a path for energy independence, improving infrastructure, responding to economic challenges, and promoting self-government."

The committee is also responsible for protection of the environment and has jurisdiction over fisheries, the ocean, and national parks.

"Chairman Rahall sponsored the bill, and said he was doing so in order to give the NMI a new era in Congress—a fresh slate and a strong voice for the Marianas," said Sablan. "In this committee we will get the opportunity to protect our beautiful oceans, and to fix our not so beautiful roads. We will work toward greater self-governance, and a better power supply. We can do good things for the NMI on this committee." ***(PR)***

Hours to sell alcohol extended at NMI airports

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno Fitial signed into law a bill extending the days and hours passengers at CNMI airports are able to purchase alcohol.

Under Public Law 16-27 vendors are now allowed to sell alcohol within sterile passenger holding areas 24-hours a day, 365 days a year.

Previously, vendors could only sell alcohol from 9am to 2am, and could not sell alcoholic beverages when an election was in progress on that island.

A sterile passenger holding area is defined as areas at or beyond the screening checkpoints, holding rooms and boarding gates. Vendors outside these areas will be subject to existing laws.

"The Legislature finds that due to the difficult economic situation the Commonwealth is currently facing, it is very important to find any means that will encourage revenue," the measure states. "The Legislature further finds that passengers arriving and departing in our airports come from different time zones and should not be subject to legislations that are regulated by time or hours permissible."

Fitial commended the Legislature for passing the measure "[a]s it not only encourages revenue for the CNMI government, but also for the vendors in the CNMI airports while servicing our outbound travelers who wish to consume alcoholic beverages as they wait to depart the CNMI."

He added that it's important the Department of Commerce, which will promulgate the rules and regulations, educate vendors on how to recognize when a customer shows signs of intoxication or impaired judgment.

The governor urged the Legislature to continue acting on revenue generating bills to help improve the economic status of the Commonwealth.

Rep. Joseph Camacho, Rep. Diego Benavente and Rep. Ray Yumul offered the bill.

Commission on CEDS sets Saipan public hearing tonight

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CEDS project consultant Sergio Loya of Management Analysis Inc (MAI) reviews the Rota port project plan with Rota Mayor Joseph Inos, Secretary of Commerce Michael Ada and MAI President Art Smith.

After holding public hearings on Tinian and Rota the past two days, the Commission on Commonwealth Economic Development Strategy Commission will have its Saipan public hearing tonight at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CEDS Commission co-chair Lynn Knight said everyone is invited to attend the meeting as the group will welcome comments and feedback about the five-year development plan they crafted to help jumpstart the islands' economy.

The presentation starts on the dot at 6:30pm.

She said the public hearings on Tinian and Rota were very fruitful and she expects the Saipan public hearing to follow the trend.

Aside from Knight, who chairs the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and publisher of the *Saipan Tribune*, also expected to be present during the public hearing are Commerce Secretary Michael Ada and CEDS project consultants Art Smith and Sergio Loya of Management Analysis Inc.

Ada serves as co-chair of the CEDS Commission.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial last year created the CEDS Commission and it was tasked to map out a long-term economic plan for the Commonwealth as outlined by the Economic Development Administration Reform Act, Public Law 105-393, as well as to serve as one of several guides for economic development in the CNMI. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Steps for FY '10 budget underway

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The special assistant for Planning and Budgeting has issued a directive for government agencies to submit their budget and spending plans for fiscal year 2010.

"As we struggle to try to overcome the challenges of the current budget situation and try to avoid a major crisis here, we've started the budget call for 2010," said Finance Secretary Eloy Inos.

Gov. Benigno Fitial vetoed the Legislature's $165.4 million FY 2009 budget Dec. 24, citing an $8.7 million drop in revenue projections. The Legislature has been discussing various ways to pass a new FY 2009 budget.

"Despite the challenges and all the adversities here, we still want to do what we can do under the circumstances," Inos said.

On April 1, the governor is expected to submit a budget proposal for the fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

" We want to make sure our submission is timely and as complete and accurate as possible," Inos said. "And hopefully that will give the Legislature the opportunity to do its job in the budget oversight and conduct hearings."

By July 1, the Legislature is expected to pass a concurrent resolution listing the estimated income and establishing the spending limit. The governor has until Aug. 1 to submit any amendments or changes. By Sept. 1, the Legislature must submit a final budget to the governor.

When a budget is not passed the government goes on "continuing resolution," using the prior year's budget.

Man pleads guilty in beating of ex-justice's daughter

A man accused of beating up the daughter of a former CNMI Supreme Court justice has entered a guilty plea in the Superior Court.

Beau James Priest, 25, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace during a hearing on Wednesday before Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos.

Inos accepted Priest's guilty plea and sentenced him to 30 days in prison, all suspended.

Inos placed the defendant on six months of supervised probation and ordered him to pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus a probation service fee.

The judge required Priest to undergo counseling for anger management at the Community Guidance Center.

A review hearing was set for June 3, 2009, to determine whether Priest has complied with probation conditions.

"Defendant's failure to appear will result in the issuance of a bench warrant," Inos said.

In July 2008, the Attorney General's Office charged Priest with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The AGO alleged that on April 18, 2008, Priest pulled the victim out of a vehicle by the hair and left her lying on the ground.

The defendant and counsel, the Public Defender's Office, signed a plea agreement with chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch.

Priest pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace. The remaining charge was dismissed as part of the agreement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Announcement for the Opening of the
Psychology Practice of Dr. Ron Meister
(Licensed Psychologist 670 322-0349)

At the NMPASI conference room
Located just north of the Gualo Rai intersection
On Friday January 16th from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Thai refreshments will be served.
All are welcome!! No RSVP required

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

DCCA CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS (CNMI Wide)

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs will be accepting new applications for Child Care and Development Fund (Child Care Program) for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The program is open to accept new applicants from Wednesday, Jan. 14 to Friday, January 16, 2009.

Applications may be picked up at:
DCCA Child Care Program Office
Building No. 1347 Capital Hill
Office nos. 664-2575 and 664-2573

Child Care Program Office Hours:

Mondays to Thurdays	7:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.
Friday,	7:30a.m. to 1:00p.m.
Friday,	1:00p.m. to 4:30p.m. CLOSED

Applications are limited and are released on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE basis. When the applications are out, the program will immediately close its issuance of applications. For this opening, only 50 applications will be released.

Requirements:
Applicant of Household
1. Check stubs for the most recent two pay periods for each parent or guardian
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI Provide one of the following documents
   a. House Rental/ Mortgage
   b. Utility Receipt
   c. Telephone Receipt
   d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification
6. Child support statement/stub
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit

Child/Children Household member:
1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA)
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

Incomplete applications will not be accepted

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STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA SEDANS								
R08-015F	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	59734	WHITE	ADJ-831	9,299	
R08-022B	2005	ECHO 4DR	AUTO	70447	AQUA	ADH-691	7,999	
R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	14,999	
R08-011F	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	65940	SILVER	ACC-154	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	15,999	
U08-091L	2006	CAMRY XLE 4DR	AUTO	46207	SILVER	ABY-069	12,799	
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	9,999	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
U08-087R	2005	EPICA 4DR	AUTO	26553	OLIVE	ACB-027	5,999	
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	11,399	
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	26,899
TOYOTA TRUCKS								
R07-038F	2004	TACOMA 4X2 XTRACAB	AUTO	49609	BEIGE	ABV-159	~~11,899~~	10,599
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U07-106P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	53147	SILVER	ADF-401	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-107P	2004	HONDA CIVIC DX 4DR	AUTO	48755	SILVER	ADF-421	~~8,999~~	7,999
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	8,399
U07-104T	2003	NISSAN MURANO SE	AUTO	32000	PEWT	ABZ-615	~~16,799~~	15,299
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
U07-095T	1999	MAZDA MILLENIA 4DR.SEDAN	AUTO	91014	BEIGE	ABP-583	~~7,999~~	4,899
GM VAN								
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	9,499	
SPORT UTILITY								
U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799

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UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
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2X4X14 - $5.00	2X4X14 - $7.70
2X4X16 - $5.58	2X4X16 - $8.70
2X4X18 - $6.30	2X4X18 - $9.70
2X4X20 - $6.85	2X4X20 - $10.70
2X6X12 - $6.90	2X6X12 - $10.20
2X6X14 - $7.90	2X6X14 - $12.20
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $14.20
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $15.20
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $17.20

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Man in 'ice' case gets 6 mos. term

The federal court sentenced yesterday to six months in prison a man who was among three charged with conspiring to sell methamphetamine or "ice" in December 2007.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex Munson imposed a six-month term on Lawrence Sablan Kalen for one count of distribution and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Munson gave Kalen credit for the time he has already served in jail and ordered that the balance of his imprisonment shall be served by house arrest.

This means that the defendant will be placed on house arrest for 138 days under the supervision of the U.S. Probation Office. Kalen will also be placed on three years of supervised release.

Munson ordered the defendant to perform 200 hours of community service and pay a $100 special assessment fee.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley recommended six months imprisonment, a credit for the time already served in jail, and three years of supervised release.

O'Malley also recommended that the remainder of the jail term be served by house arrest with conditions that would allow the defendant to continue his employment.

Defense attorney Bruce Berline agreed with the recommendation.

Lawrence Kalen, Manuel Aldan Sablan, and Greggory Kalen were indicted with one count of conspiracy to distribute "ice" and two counts of distribution and possession with intent to distribute "ice."

According to the indictment, the three conspired to distribute "ice" on Dec. 1, 2007 and on Dec. 13, 2007.

The three defendants entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government and pleaded guilty. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

'Civilians may now avail of regulated shooting gallery'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Range Master Ambrosio Ogumoro has inspected two shooting galleries on Saipan and found them to have passed all safety requirements.

Ogumoro said Bing Bing Bang Shooting in Garapan and the Kannat Tabla Shooting Gallery in Kannat Tabla can now accommodate all registered gun owners for the purpose of recreational shooting.

"I would like to emphasize that it is critical that we are responsible on how we handle our firearms in the field, vehicle or home. An attitude of respect and seriousness should always be encouraged and maintained when dealing with guns," he said.

With the certification of the two private shooting galleries, the civilian population can now enjoy a safe, secure, and regulated shooting environment, Ogumoro said.

He reminded the public that only those 18 years old or older are allowed to enter the gallery premises.

The range master said all persons must furnish a valid driver's license or other identification that show their age before entering the gallery.

"Customers may use those firearms provided by the shooting gallery or their own personal firearms. Customers using their own firearms must present their registered firearms permit to the shooting gallery range safety officer," Ogumoro said.

Tudela to ask for more funds for animal shelter

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela will ask the Legislature to allocate more money for the stalled animal shelter project following complaints about the dangers posed by stray dogs.

An initial fund of $75,000 had already been appropriated two years ago but the project was not implemented because the money was not enough, according to estimates from the contractors who participated in the bidding.

The Mayor explained that the lowest bid submitted amounted to $120,000 while the highest was $150,000.

Tudela asked the Legislature in April last year for an additional $75,000 but there has been no response.

He said this initial funding that had already been appropriated is due in the Mayor's account.

He said he will make another attempt for the Legislature to grant the request for that fund.

The animal shelter project is intended to build examination rooms, quarantine rooms and other facilities.

Tudela said the quarantine is to make sure that sick dogs and healthy dogs are separated from each other.

"We want to finish the project but how can we do it if we lack funding," he said.

Stray dogs had been a serious problem on Saipan.

Tudela had been looking at an area in Kagman as the most appropriate site for an animal shelter.

Tudela said he wants to finish the project before he leaves office next year, following the general elections in November this year. *(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Auditions for Valentine's Day musical

The Friends of the Arts will hold auditions on Sunday, Jan. 11, for their Valentine Day production *Let's Fall in Love*. We need people who can sing duets, solos and are able to belt out a song. The auditions will be held at Marianas High School, Room 101D, from 4pm until 6pm. Please be prepared to audition with your own song or one of the audition songs. This is a wonderful opportunity to display your musical talents. Come join the fun! ***(PR)***

Language Policy Commission sets meeting

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission members will conduct its regular meeting on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2009 at 9am, at the Office of Aging conference room. All interested individuals are invited to attend. For more information, contact Cindy Reyes at 664-5326/27.

Tinian High PTA meeting set

This is to inform all parents and/or legal guardians of Tinian High School that there will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 3:30pm at the THS cafeteria. All parents are encouraged to attend. Feel free to call Herman Hofschneider, Carla SanNicolas or Lynette Hofschneider for more information. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '88 meeting set

This is to remind the Marianas High School Class of 1988 on their meeting will be held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2009, at the residence of Melvin P. & Eleanor A. Cepeda in As Lito. ***(PR)***

OES PTSA meeting set

The Parents Teachers Student Association officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform parents and guardians of Oleai Elementary School students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, at 6:16pm in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

Hopwood calendar of events

The Hopwood Junior High School's Mid-Progress reports were issued to all students on Dec. 22, 2008. Parents are urged to review the reports. The end of the second quarter will be on Jan. 30. The following week will be report card distribution (TBA). ***(PR)***

Sr. Remedios PTA meeting

The Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center will have its PTA meeting on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2009, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT

Birthday greetings go out to Arisa Sakai Peters from your fabulous family and friends, and all of your current and former students. Have a fantabulous day!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to Elsie Skang-Ngewakl! "God bless you always with beauty, joy, and sunshine, God bless you always with every good thing, God bless you with His special love!: Love always, mom and dad Ngewakl, Tedley, Techakl, Trolii, Eberdiil, Brad, Yvonne, Pia and Nolan, Timb, Tyrell, Tyller, Tyreze and of course your brada'man Harl!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Maribel Christine Duenas Igitol for graduating from the University of Guam with a bachelor's degree in Education (Elementary Education). Congratulation from your Mom, Dad (Lydia & David Igitol) and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations to Jon Michael Ulep Igitol for graduating from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a bachelor of science degree in Aeronautics (Commercial Pilot) in Daytona Beach, Florida. Message comes from your Mon, Dad (Marylyn, Martin and Jake Igitol).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local ranchers submit 11 grant proposals

With the aid of the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Educational Service, ranchers and farmers from Saipan, Rota, and Tinian recently submitted grant proposals to fund projects aimed at sustaining agricultural profitability and promoting environmental stewardship.

The proposed projects include sweet potato wine production, sustaining deer production, cultivating Tinian hot pepper, aerobic composting, alternative poultry production, pineapple production, solar energy, abalone production, "weed for feeds," and aquaculture professional development opportunities.

"We're extremely proud that ranchers and farmers are taking advantage of the funding opportunities that are available," said Tee Abaham, acting NMC president. "The projects, if funded, will significantly contribute to the diversification of farming methods and practices that will ultimately strengthen the local agricultural industry."

The grants are made available by the Western Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (Western SARE) Program, which is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. According to its website, Western SARE has funded more than 1,000 grants worth over $40 million.

Farmers, ranchers, researchers, educators, students, and other interested parties are invited annually to submit proposals under the grant. ***(NMC)***

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Wreckage found in PNG river could be Earhart

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—The discovery of the wreckage of an aircraft in the Ip River in East Pomio, East New Britain province last week has generated renewed speculation that it could be the aircraft belonging to famed American aviatrix, Amelia Earhart.

What makes this particular discovery significant is the fact that an Australian aircraft engineer, who has been involved since 1994 in a project to locate Earhart's Lockheed Electra 10E, had pinpointed the location where the wreckage was found as the place where he believed Earhart's plane went down.

An entry on the free Internet encyclopaedia Wikipedia says the engineer, former Air Niugini employee David Billings, asserts that a map marked with notations consistent with Earhart's engine model number and her airframe's construction number, was seen briefly by Australian soldiers during World War II.

Billings' theory originates from the WWII Australian patrol stationed on East New Britain and indicates a crash site 64km (40 miles) southwest of Rabaul, which is only a few kilometers away from where the wreckage was found last week.

Billings speculated that Earhart turned back from her intended destination of Howland Island in the Pacific Ocean after unsuccessfully trying to rendezvous with an American warship, and tried to reach Rabaul for fuel.

Billings and his team had made 10 attempts to locate the wreckage. His theory is contained in an exhaustive article on an American aviation website (http://www.wingsoverkansas.com/earhart/article.asp?id=850) detailing the reasons for his conclusion that the wreckage spotted by the Diggers on April 17, 1945, belonged to Earhart.

Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, took off from Lae on July 2, 1937, in the heavily loaded Electra for Howland Island 4,113km (2,556 miles) away. To date, their disappearance had remained an enduring mystery.

A brief report in Monday's *The National* prompted one reader from Australia to write in to suggest that the wreckage could belong to Earhart's *Electra*.

Further research on the Internet revealed Billings' theory pinpointing the area 64km southwest of Rabaul where the Diggers spotted the wreckage in 1945. A community leader from the Kalip ward in East Pomio, Isidor Vote, said last week that the aircraft was discovered by a group of youths in the Ip River in the bushes of East Pomio.

Local villagers believed the aircraft might have been shot down during World War I between 1913 and 1914, and even suggested it was being flown by a female American pilot. It is not known what their theory is based on.

Vote said the wreckage had the serial number 06751 on one of its body parts that had remained intact all these years, and parts of one of its wings had dents on it.

Vote wanted Government authorities to visit the site and inspect the aircraft in order to get more information.

He said it would serve as a record for the War Museum in Kokopo.

If the find proves to indeed be Earhart's *Electra*, it will have far more significance and could prompt an international media frenzy in the Pomio area.

Western & Pacific Network applauds new national marine monuments' designations

HONOLULU—Tuesday's announcement by the White House that President Bush designated "...three new marine national monuments in the Pacific Ocean totaling more than 195,000 square miles, an area greater than Oregon and Washington combined" is being applauded by the organizations and individuals in Hawaii who took part in the October 2008 meeting in Honolulu with representatives of James Connaughton, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

In a message to local supporters, Marjorie Ziegler, executive director of The Conservation Council For Hawaii, said, "This is a major victory for ocean ecosystems. The designations include the spectacular Mariana Trench and the coral reefs and waters around three uninhabited islands in the Northern Mariana Islands, Rose Atoll (American Samoa) and seven islands along the equator in the central Pacific.

William Aila, chairman of the Native Hawaiian Council, Papahanaumokukea Reserve Advisory Committee said, "With this monument designation, the Chamorro and Carolinian people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas have co-management of their waters."

Supporters

Conservationists were not alone in their support for the designation of these marine monuments. Former Western States Bush Campaign chair Mario Rodriguez was among several prominent GOP supporters (including former U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin) who petitioned the President for the strongest protections for the monument encompassing these unique geologic and biological resources.

"It's surprising that the Mariana Islands, and the Mariana Trench, including the deepest point on earth, have not until now been considered for protection," Rodriguez said. "President Bush, with a bold stroke of his pen, became the Teddy Roosevelt of the oceans, cementing his legacy as the ocean president and the U.S. position as the world leader in marine conservation. The President should be commended for demonstrating that conserving our ocean resources is not a partisan issue and the peoples of the CNMI and the future generations of the world are the beneficiaries."

"Every Administration needs to be as credible with conservation as they are on taxes and national security," he added.

FACT SHEET

1 The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument consists of three components:

- The first component of this monument is the waters and submerged lands encompassing the coral reef ecosystem of the three northernmost islands. These islands represent some of the westernmost territory in the United States – 5,600 miles from California. They are home to more than 300 species of stony corals.
- The second component is the Marianas Trench. The trench, the site of the deepest place on Earth, is approximately 940 nautical miles long and 38 nautical miles wide within the Exclusive Economic Zone of the United States.
- The third component is a series of active undersea volcanoes and thermal vents. Twenty-one active hydrothermal submarine volcanoes and vents support life in the harshest conditions imaginable. Many scientists believe extreme conditions like these could have been the first incubators of life on Earth. Further research will allow us to learn more about life on the bottom of the sea.

2 The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments protects the pristine coral reef ecosystems around Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands, Johnston Atoll, and Wake Island—the site of a pivotal battle in World War II and an important military base today. These areas support a large number of nesting seabirds and migratory shorebirds, and their pristine coral reefs contain hundreds of thriving fish species and large apex predators and are also home to endangered turtles.

3 The Rose Atoll Marine National Monument protects the pristine coral reef ecosystem around a remote part of American Samoa. One of its most striking features is the pink hue of fringing reef caused by the dominance of reef building coralline algae. Rare species of nesting petrel, shearwaters, and terns also thrive on this island, and the waters surrounding it are a home for many species depleted elsewhere in the world, including giant clams and reef sharks.

The President also announced America's first new UNESCO World Heritage Site nominations in 15 years. The two sites are the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument (in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands) and Mount Vernon. Only two sites can be nominated each year.

In designating the marine areas, the President made explicit that nothing in the proclamations impairs or otherwise affects the activities of the U.S. Department of Defense. Among other things, the DoD is ensured full freedom of navigation in accordance with the law of the sea, and the U.S. Navy can continue effective training to maintain its antisubmarine warfare and other capabilities.

Source: The White House

Opportunities for the CNMI

As a result of the Monument designation, the Marianas should get a visitors center, an enforcement boat, co-management, an advisory council to the monument, federal jobs, and international media attention.

Discussing the expected visitor and scientific centers, Lincoln Lighthill, a LEED accredited Architect at Jensen Architects in San Francisco, said, "A place of such geological and biological uniqueness deserves a facility for public education, research and ecotourism that properly introduces the world to the little-known natural and cultural treasures of the CNMI. It would seem to call for a new standard in sustainable, carbon-neutral design."

On Saipan, where tourism, still the main industry, has fallen from 700,000 to 400,000 visitors a year in 10 years, the Hotel Association and the Chamber of Commerce have endorsed the monument because such designation will mean a boost their visitor industry and offer a significant contribution to the economy of the CNMI.

The primary opposition to the National Monument designations has been generated by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Based in Honolulu, Wespac remains under at least two active federal investigations for the misuse of federal funds for political lobbying and possible conflicts of interest charges.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 9, 2001

700 workers duped in another savings scam

A busload of angry garment factory workers trooped to the Department of Public Safety yesterday to complain the owner of Long City Traders Corp. who allegedly ran away with hundreds of thousands of dollars they entrusted in exchange for "bigger"' interest rate. This is the second time in less than a month that a group of Chinese garment workers complained to DPS of being victimized by perpetrators of this savings scam. At least 45 workers have earlier came forward to sue a couple who allegedly collected from them over $100,000 on promise that their investment will double in just two months. (See related story on Page 3) DPS said the suspect identified as Kwan Y. Chung, 53, one of the shareholders of Long City Traders, is now the subject of a police manhunt, but some sources believed the suspect has fled the island. Mr. Chung will be charged with theft by deception.

Teno shoots down 'shooting resort' bill

Amid concerns over safety of the islands to both residents and tourists, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday vetoed legislation seeking to ease tough gun control law in the CNMI to cater to so-called "shooting resorts" proposed by Korean investors. He said he could not compromise public safety over economic benefit of the measure despite assurances by proponents that use of these high-caliber weapons would be tightly guarded and restricted within the proposed resorts. "Although the bill was aimed at boosting our ailing economy, this is not the type of development supported by our private sector or by our citizens," the governor said in his veto message.

January 9, 2002

Torres wants GAO to study impact of CIP program

Since 1979, the federal government has pumped in more than half-a-billion dollars-or $657.16 million-into the CNMI under the Covenant Section 702 program, yet questions remain whether the original goals of the funding program has been met. In line with this, Rep. William S. Torres will ask the General Accounting Office of the US Congress to conduct a study to see the extent of the impact the program may have had on the Commonwealth and to verify whether the original intent of the program has been achieved.

Adriano: Lift hiring ban but raise minimum wage

Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano says he will support the lifting of the moratorium on the hiring of nonresident workers, provided that certain conditions are met. Adriano, who will be the Senate Floor Leader in the 13th Legislature, said the ban on the hiring of new nonresident workers-Public Law 11-6-may be lifted on the condition that the CNMI minimum wage is raised to US mainland standards. "The minimum wage should be raised to somewhere around $4.10 to $4.25 per hour. In that way, we can attract our own people to go and work in the private sector," he said.

January 9, 2003

Heinz: Payless paydays loom

Government paychecks and retirement pensions have a very distinct possibility of not reaching government workers and retirees in the near future if the move to cut government wages through work-hour reduction continues to be stalled. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider made the forecast yesterday, still disappointed over the failure of the proposed Retirement Protection Act of 2003 to make it past the House of Representatives. The House majority voted Monday to thumb down House Bill 13-242 or the measure proposing to cut government work by an hour daily in order to save money for the payment of staggering retirement obligations and overdue tax rebates and refunds.

'Abolish rebate, refund systems'

Faced with dwindling resources and undue delays in the release of rebate and refund checks, it would make better sense for the Legislature to just pass a law that would abolish the refunds and the rebates systems altogether. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes stressed this, even as he pointed out that, with the CNMI government's dire fiscal straits being no secret, suing it to collect on the $92 million it owes the Fund would be an exercise in futility at this point in time. Reyes said that, by doing away with the rebate and refund system, the revenue the government acquires from income taxes could be used to settle some of its obligations.

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

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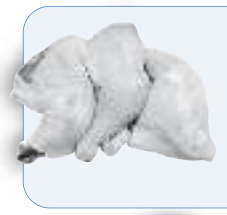

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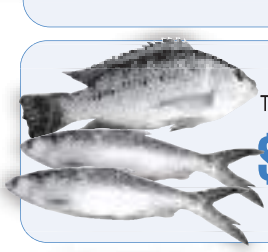

Tilapia/Milkfish
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US Pork Spareribs 20lbs
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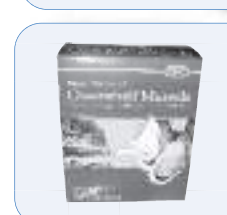

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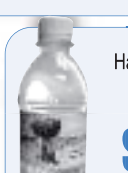

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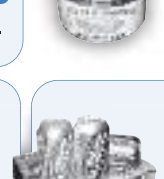

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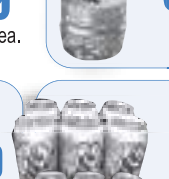

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Joy Dishwashing CP Lemon Twist 12.6
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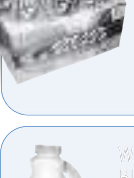

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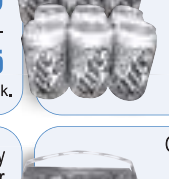

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Opinion

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Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Put a stop to this

In the densely populated Gaza Strip, Hamas is ensconced in houses, schools and mosques, fighting under cover of civilians. Israel, meanwhile, has bombed extensively, sent in ground forces to cut off Gaza City and taken up positions atop apartment buildings, with residents inside. More than 550 Palestinians have been killed and 2,000 wounded since the Israeli offensive began Dec. 27. At least a quarter of the victims are civilians, many of them children. And most of the 1.5 million Gazans are hunkered down between the two forces, grappling with shortages of water, electricity, cooking gas and other basic supplies. This must stop.

The stated goal of Israel's airstrikes and ground assault is to prevent Hamas from firing rockets into Israeli territory, as the group has done by the hundreds in recent months. Although the numbers have been greatly reduced in the last few days, Hamas says it will not stop firing rockets until Israel ends its assault and the economic blockade of Gaza that has been in place almost from the time Hamas ousted the Palestinian Authority there in June 2007.

This page has supported Israel's right to self-defense. No state can tolerate an almost daily barrage of cross-border rocket attacks against its people, no matter how many or few are hit by the weapons; four Israelis have died in rocket attacks since the offensive began. By the same token, we have called for an end to a blockade that amounts to the collective punishment of Palestinians under Hamas rule. Israel cannot deny civilians access to food, fuel and medicine to make the political point that Hamas is a terrorist group bringing misery to its people.

Israel has destroyed border tunnels that served as conduits for weapons trafficking from Egypt, as well as weapons stocks. That's fair. It also has invaded Gaza and occupied the northern areas that have served as the launchpad for most of the rockets. That's not practical. Israel maintained an occupied security zone in Lebanon for years. It didn't work all that well there, and it won't work this time either. Israel would have to occupy virtually all of the Gaza Strip because Hamas now has rockets with a range of about 25 miles. More important, Palestinians have demonstrated that they will violently resist an Israeli occupation.

It is incumbent on the international community to broker a cease-fire—quickly. French President Nicolas Sarkozy is taking the lead, and President Bush and President-elect Barack Obama must throw their support behind this effort. A deal must be reached that requires Hamas to stop firing rockets and smuggling weapons, and that demands Israel end the military assault and the economic blockade. Israelis and Palestinians must turn to negotiating a lasting peace.

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HAIL TO THE CHEF

Bush discusses conservation and the environment

Editor's Note: The following is the transcript of President Bush's remarks during the signing of the proclamation designating the three marine monuments that include the three northernmost islands of the CNMI. The signing took place on June 6, 2009, 2:08pm EST, at Room 350 of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington D.C. The transcript is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2009/01/20090106-4.html.

By GEORGE W. BUSH

George W. Bush is the President of the United States of America.

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you for coming, and Happy New Year. Laura and I thank all of our distinguished guests, starting with members of my Cabinet—Secretary Kempthorne, Secretary Gutierrez, Administrator Johnson. Admiral, thank you for coming today. We're proud you're here. Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here. Other members of the administration who have joined us. Members of the conservation community, we're glad you're here.

Governor, I am proud you're here. Thank you for coming. And Josie is with you. Representatives from—by the way, Northern Mariana Islands—Governor. Just in case you don't know him. (Laughter.) We know him—and we like him. And all the representatives from America Samoa, really appreciate you all coming. Apologize for the weather, but I don't apologize for the policy, because we're fixing to do some fabulous policy.

It's interesting that we're gathered a few steps from the office once occupied by a young Assistant Secretary of the Navy named Theodore Roosevelt. Not long after he left the position, he was back on these grounds as the 26th President of the United States. And exactly a hundred years ago, he embarked on his final weeks as the President—something I can relate to. (Laughter.)

President Roosevelt left office with many achievements, and the most enduring of all was his commitment to conservation. As he once said: "Of all the questions which can come before the nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

That spirit has guided the conservation movement for a century; it's guided my administration. Since 2001, we have put common-sense policies in place, and I can say upon departure, our air is cleaner, our water is purer, and our lands are better protected.

To build on this progress, I'm pleased to make several announcements today. Under the Antiquities Act that Theodore Roosevelt signed in 1906, the President can set aside places of historic or scientific significance to be protected as national monuments. With the proclamations I will sign in a few moments, I am using that authority to designate three beautiful and biologically diverse areas of the Pacific Ocean as new marine national monuments.

The first is we will establish the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. At the heart of this protected area will be much of the Marianas Trench—the site of the deepest point on Earth—and the surrounding arc of undersea volcanoes and thermal vents. This unique geological region is more than five times longer than the Grand Canyon. It is deeper than Mount Everest is tall. It supports life in some of the harshest conditions imaginable. A fascinating array of species survive amid hydrogen-emitting volcanoes, hydrothermal vents that produce highly acidic and boiling water, and the only known location of liquid sulfur this side of Jupiter.

Many scientists—and I want to thank the scientists who have joined us today—believe extreme conditions like these could have been the first incubators of life on Earth. As further research is conducted in these depths, we will learn more about life at the bottom of the sea—and about the history of our planet.

The other major features of the new monument are the majestic coral reefs off the coast of the upper three islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These islands, some 5,600 miles from California, are home to a striking diversity of marine

See BUSH on Page 15

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The economic crab pot

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Saipan has experienced this lesson in economics, though it has never learned it: Destruction follows delusion. Personally, I'd like to see construction follow coherence, but it's not up to me to determine such things for the Commonwealth.

Let's draw a distinction (well, my distinctions, anyway) between optimism and delusion, and go from there. In fact, I'll spell out my entire theory on the gig.

Optimism is having rational confidence in yourself and your abilities. Thus goes the adage: When the man is right, the world is right.

Delusion, by contrast, is having irrational confidence in everything else; it is the refuge of those who lack confidence in their own productive abilities, who will therefore believe anyone who tells them that the world owes them a living.

Delusion leads to a sense of entitlement (which we'll call "Somebody Else" syndrome). Entitlement leads to bitterness. Bitterness leads to malice. Malice leads to destruction. That's pretty much how I've seen things sort themselves out in the world of dysfunctional economies.

Let's consider Somebody Else syndrome. The Commonwealth has a bad case of it. Somebody Else is going to "invest" in projects, in which Somebody Else is going to take the financial risks, while Somebody Else is going to do the planning, as Somebody Else is going to do the management, and Somebody Else is going to do all the labor.

This works just fine, until Somebody Else decides they don't like the arrangement and they leave. Then you're stuck with a shortfall in entitlements; be they of money, or of status, or of deference. One glaring example was the rabid tantrum that some in the CNMI threw when JAL pulled out a couple of years back. The insults aimed at the Japanese by some of our learned officials were incredibly vulgar. (That's not hearsay, I was present when one such act of economic brilliance was showcased).

Such is the end game of entitlement; when Somebody Else won't cooperate, they're vilified. The malice just spreads from there.

And that sort of malice is growing in Saipan. It has changed the very tone of the islands. It is repulsive to legitimate professionals and investors. Many leave. Many others simply stay away.

Those who remain are virtually in internal exile, not wanting to say anything that will attract the low cunning of a patronage kingpin, or the envy of the kingpin's least balanced relative, or the malice of the growing ranks of the chronically disenfranchised. Heck, I've seen some hapless victims who managed to antagonize all three elements, in the Saipan version of a grand slam.

Anyway, the behavior is economically destructive. Over the years I've talked to scores of managers and professionals who have pulled out of the Commonwealth. The most cited reason for leaving? No, it's not the limited opportunities of a small island economy. The most common reason for leaving was the air of hostility they perceived. As somebody put it, the only thing more worrisome than failing in Saipan is succeeding in Saipan, that's when your real trouble starts. Americans and Filipinos often call it the "crab pot" effect, as those who can't elevate themselves out of the pot busy themselves by pulling down those who are climbing their way up.

The paradox of the Commonwealth is that is has so many nice people, but they have become sort of a silent super-majority that doesn't really set the tone of things. Well, not directly, anyway. Indirectly, when it's Bota Bota Bota time, the status quo is reaffirmed.

The good news, if you're looking for some, is that if the CNMI changed its economic behavior, it could eventually attract many investors, millions (yes, millions) of tourists, and could actually be a very wealthy place. The other news, however, is there's no evidence that the CNMI will change its economic behavior.

A 'New Deal' for projects of island significance

By JAMES M. RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Americans, at arguably the worst times in our nation's history, which included the Great Depression and World War II, were inspired and persevered in the wake of a "New Deal" as envisioned by their elected leader, the only American President to ever be elected to four terms. Franklin D. Roosevelt ascended to the greatest heights of American popular opinion, all the while using a wheelchair because he could not walk. It is said with some certainty that, had there been television back then and more people would have seen that he used a wheelchair, he never would have been elected. The combination of the crippling effects of poliomyelitis and the burdens of a presidency in a time replete with national and worldwide strife took its toll on FDR's body, but his mind was preserved and he was able to make people forget about his disability. He spoke of "an economic constitutional order," which included conservation, relief, social insurance, cheaper electricity and employment for everyone. More importantly he instilled confidence in ordinary citizens to believe in a "new deal" and that truly "the only thing to fear is fear itself." Despite the fact that he drove the federal deficits to unprecedented lows, FDR is dubbed as one of the greatest Presidents that ever lived ultimately because he sought to ensure a collective welfare and put "a chicken in every pot."

In the CNMI, the deck never changes and the game is always the same, so the deal is never new. While for the moment I would rather live here than anywhere else in the world, I am worried—I feel myself dangling on the whims of an uninspired community…a community divided, in part, by partisan politics…a community that makes little to no collective effort at anything…a community of people working for the government, instead of a government working for the people. We have bought hook, line and sinker into the notion that the only life worth living is one cloaked in the almighty dollar. So we continue to line up for a turn on the magic carpet ride from the Corporate Masters of the Universe and the Federal Cavalry with little consideration of a revival at our own hands through simpler, more eco-friendly projects of island significance. If we know anything by now, it should be that money in and of itself will not solve our problems—it's how we come about it and what we do with it that matters.

This gets me back to my thoughts on projects of island significance. For example:

What if, instead of building more roads, we built more water tanks and made it an islandwide effort to ensure that every rooftop in the CNMI was connected to a water catchment system. At the very least, every government-owned roof ought to be used for this purpose…just imagine how much water can be harnessed off the roof of every housing unit in Upper and Lower MIHA or off the roof of each school building or, here's a thought, off the roof of the Governor's and Legislature buildings? Or…

What if, instead of paying people to plant decorative trees along our roadsides, we paid to have them plant fruit-bearing trees (like breadfruit, mangos, bananas or coconuts)? Or…

What if, instead of handing out tax breaks to foreign investors just because they want to set up business on our islands, we reserved the tax breaks for local companies already doing business here (with maybe an extra incentive based on the number of local/long-term residents they employ or extra incentives for endeavors in agriculture or aquaculture)?

The basic idea is to harness and/or cultivate the natural potential of our lands using people who are vested in these islands to create self-sustaining economic opportunities (i.e., jobs). The subsequent effects should include a reduction in the long-term, recurring costs to our government and an increase in local products/resources (labor or otherwise)—not exactly a road map to salvation, but it is a start and there is value in at least thinking outside of the box. One thing is for sure, if we keep doing the same things over and over again, we will get the same results over and over again.

Some would have us believe that the problems of our society need to be handled from the top down—the big shots know what's best and that the little man has very little to no effect on what happens. The fact is nothing could be further from the truth. Where we end up as a society hinges directly on the actions or inactions of the common man and I'm not talking about a person's right to vote—we already know with some certainty that our votes often fall by the wayside of empty promises and dirty politics. Rather, I'm talking about our willingness to assume a share of the responsibility to contribute to, invest in, and believe in our common wealth. At a time not so long ago we did just that with inspiration from a skinny, old man with a disability…why can't we do it again? To quote people wiser than I could ever be, "Never doubt that a group of committed citizens working together can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has" and know that, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

For more on famous people with disabilities, please feel free to contact NMPASI (ask for Greg or Tom) at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax], 235-7278 [tty] or check us out online at http://www.nmpasi.com.

James M. Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & advocacy Systems Inc. or NMPASI.

Ruth, Tina, and Greg

I wholeheartedly agree with the fair-headed lass, Ruth Tighe, in her response to my recent letter to the editor concerning Congresswoman Sablan's "giving up" the fight against the evil-doers on the hill.

Here's why.

As we've all witnessed, "the unrealistically high standards" as Ruth professes in Tina's defense, is of freshman legislator Tina Sablan's own choosing and her personal cudgel to bear. Can she handle it? Certainly, we can ask for no less, along with the rule of law. Since being elected she has, however, been "chastised" especially after her push for an Open Government Act—to reveal the corruption and misappropriation of government funds on the hill---was shot down by the graybeards and deadwoods. And indeed, her demand for "fiscal accountability..." from the governor and the legislative body is also a just quest and should never be relinquished. Yet in all reality, time and energy can never be recovered if engaged in battle with the graybeards and deadwoods whose numbers are greater than twenty, or "beat her head against the wall," as Ruth protectively wrote, is seppuku at its finest and should be avoided at all cost.

Having said that, I would personally like to see Tina, with her vast reservoir of energy—along with Ruth's succinct support and insider information she can reveal about those good-ol'boys on the hill and their dastardly deeds (since she's been on the island and on that same hill since day one)---strike out with renewed vigor in a frontal attack on "crimes" that have already been committed by those legislators I've mention in my letter to the editor, to bring them to task, get them to pay us back or slam them in jail. And from her seat in congress by which can be seen those and other perpetrators of corruption, rescue us from their blatant acts of malfeasance and save our community millions of dollars before it happens. And for "wins her battles one by one" as Ruth has protectively issued? If that course of "least resistance" is the safest way for Tina to duck from the bombardment by the good ol' boys, then it's understandable why she attacks the lesser of two evils, Governor Fitial.

As I've written before, what we need is to rid ourselves of the crop of graybeards who hang on election after election fandancing. Let's elect others like Tina to the hill, in a coalition to battle those wastrels, instead of the other first-time electees who, too, have been chastised and being so, have fallen instep with the graybeards or fallen by the wayside to the detriment of us all. Specifically, let's help shepherd, in the upcoming legislative race, those half-dozen aspirants who lost in the recent race for the Washington delegation seat and let them walk the talk. Specifically, one undaunted warrior comes to mind: he who needs no introduction, needs no one to cry buckets over and who has set the tone to emulate: love him or hate him, TaoTao Tano Greg Cruz's slamfest of everything and anything that is wrong with the local government, the local leaders and everybody else in his crosshairs, come what may, striking fear (and loathing) or adulation from whatever and whomever. Emphatically, we do need more Gregs and Tinas. As for the TaoTao Tano spokesman, keep spooking the looking-over-their-shoulders wrongdoers wherever they might lurk by doing what you're now doing into 2009.

And if the durable Greg Cruz should choose to run for a legislative seat inside of a year, to be surrounded by those pirates who are committing crimes against us and to then unleash his fury—imagine the possibilities. It comes with this caveat: you just might get elected.

Lee Andersen
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°

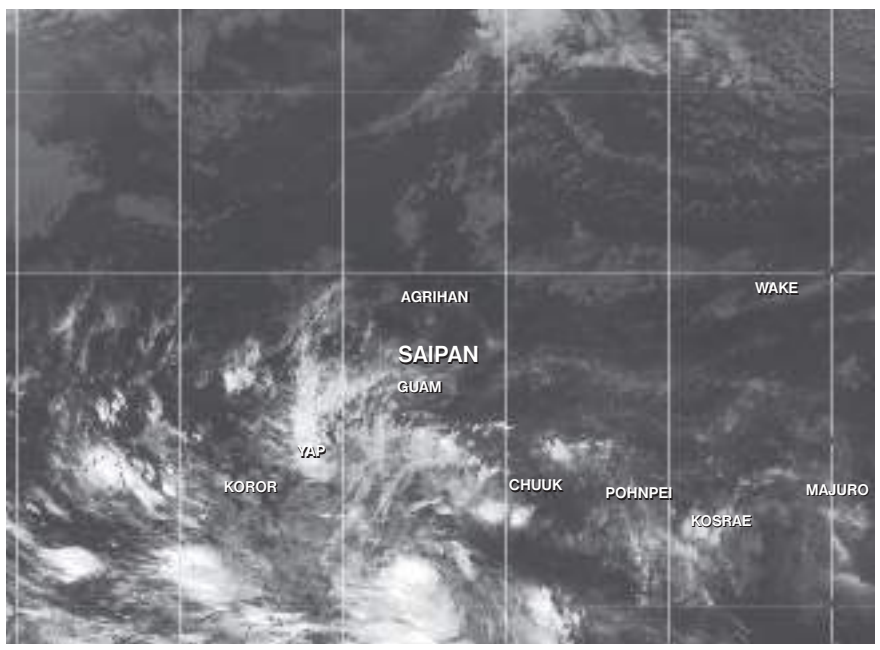
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲79	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼76
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼74
Chuuk	Showers	▲86	▼79
Pohnpei	Rain	▲83	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲77	▼67
Beijing	Sunny	▲28	▼10
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲63	▼48
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼69
London	Mostly Sunny	▲37	▼28
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼48
Manila	Rain	▲77	▼69
Melbourne	Sunny	▲71	▼52
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼62
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲33	▼27
Osaka	Cloudy	▲50	▼24
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲33	▼25
Pusan	Sunny	▲42	▼18
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲50	▼34
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲43	▼31
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲59	▼43
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲25	▼ 2
Tokyo	Rain	▲48	▼40
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼30

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, JAN. 8, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northeastward from 10N131E to 17N134E. Trade-wind convergence near the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Koror between 10N and 19N from 130E to 138E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near and over Yap within 75 miles of 8N139E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from 3N172E to 13N174E. Low-level convergence ahead of the trough is producing scattered showers south of Pohnpei between the equator and 3N from 152E to 163E. Convergent winds near and to the east of the trough are generating scattered showers across portions of the Marshall Islands between the equator and 9N from 169E to 177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
7:12AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:58AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
4:54PM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:46AM	6:03 PM
Sunday	6:46AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:46AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:46AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:55PM	4:27AM
Saturday	5:04PM	5:34AM
Sunday	6:13PM	6:36AM
Monday	7:18PM	7:33AM
Tuesday	7:18PM	7:33AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Saved by CUC

Susan and I spent the last week in Hawaii for our wedding anniversary. When we got into Honolulu last Saturday night we ran smack into an islandwide power outage.

Lightning hit the power station and the entire island of Oahu shut down just as we were getting our luggage and checking through Customs. The airport building was immediately transformed into Kalabera Cave at night, with lots of people with luggage all trying to get out of the building at one time, and the Customs folks trying to maintain order.

Fortunately, being from the Land of the Power Outage, I had a little flashlight on my key chain, and a medium-sized flashlight in my backpack. We had no trouble getting out into the street and getting a taxi into the city.

Apparently the hotels had power enough for the elevators but nothing else. There were no lights in any of the hotels, restaurants, or convenience stores.

The entire city shut down. It was total chaos. Susan and I were right at home.

The power came on the next morning and we were off to Kauai with minimal trouble.

In short, Saipan is a much better place to be during a power outage. Maybe it's because we have so much experience in this area, i.e. power outages, brownouts, and rolling blackouts.

Most, if not all, of the hotels have generators; we have one at the Veterinary Hospital, CHC and almost one at the airport. We still drive during blackouts, and hardly ever run into anyone in the dark.

So remember this the next time we have a power outage. You could be living on Hawaii where people have no idea what to do when the lights go out.

Thank you CUC.

Edgar Tudor
via e-mail

Message of appreciation

Thank you to those who have made the monument possible. No thanks to the governor, Stanley Torres, and the other "Forces of Evil" who opposed it. No thanks to MVA for keeping quiet this whole time. MVA should have supported this loud and clear so that tourists would have more reasons to come over. Some lawmakers who opposed the monument are now claiming that they supported it all along. Talk about flip floppers. This is just another perfect example of an overly bloated government that fails to see real opportunity knocking. Fortunately, the educated ones saw the opportunity and took action. This monument will provide us with the much needed worldwide publicity we badly need. It should bring in federal dollars and federal jobs. It should bring in tourists and most of all, conserve our natural resources. Thank you Angelo, Kramer, Peterka, and the rest of the supporters

Jeffrey Flores
Koblerville, Saipan

Misunderstood

Ms. Kayc Lynn, it appears you, as many others have done, misunderstand life and how people view it. Understanding how people view life is key in understanding life itself. Understanding something and approving of it is *not* the same thing, and you have jumped to a conclusion as many have. Understanding the underlying emotions and the causes in play here takes insight, wisdom and perception, which a 5-year-old does not have. Was I unclear when I said I do *not* condone the actions of Mr. Cepeda? If so, here is the definition: to condone is to regard or treat (something bad or blameworthy) as acceptable, harmless, or forgivable. I hope that makes it clear but let me say again: I do *not* condone the actions of Mr Cepeda as explained in the letter. I understand your reaction also—when a person does not understand something they tend to get upset and jump to conclusions as you did. You and others can misunderstand less by clicking on http://saipan-views.blogspot.com/. I don't believe you really wish pain upon others as you did me and I hope you don't teach that to your 5-year-old. Wishing pain upon others as you did to me, now that takes a cold heart and I choose to believe you did not grasp my letter—not that you have a cold heart.

William McCue
Wellington, Florida

Waiting for my check

It's 2009 and my wife, Shuchun Li Romolor, is still waiting for her federal stimulus check. Mr. Inos, the public relies on you to do your job in an orderly manner. The year 2009 is about hope, unity and change, and most of all it's about open transparency in our government. Your code of conduct and your code of honor will be judged by all who will get their 2008 tax return in 2009. My wife is looking forward to receive her stimulus check this 2009. Peace and justice for all.

Jack Romolor
Portland, Oregon

Simple solutions

We find it amusing and at times confusing for an official such as the mayor to continue complaining about illegal cockfighting in our community but has not done much to truly rectify the problem.

All due respect, Mr. Tudela, but your office is currently under investigation and being audited for questionable expenditures and possible mismanagement of public funds, which were addressed in our complaints filed with OPA and the AG's office a few months ago, especially serious concerns with nepotism and accountability of Liberation Day funds.

Recently our Legislative Branch acted on a law mandating the Department of Public Lands Secretary to consult with the Mayor on any and all public land matters. We suggest and recommend that you, as the current mayor of Saipan, consult with DPL and identify a piece of public land and designate a public place for legal cockfighting, instead of concentrating and promoting a family-owned and operated cockfighting arena in Gualu Rai. We are positive that those individuals who continue to illegally engage in such activities will be more than happy to assist you in the construction and the making of rules and regulations preventing continued illegal activities within our community.

We do not condone such illegal cockfighting in our community but we offer solutions preventing continued illegal activities.

Revenues can be generated benefiting both our government and the taxpayers of our homeland if this was pursued and established.

Simple solutions to a problem but one must possess honesty, integrity and the will power to achieve and stop politicking in public office.

The predicaments we face today were created by self-interest politicking in our homeland and it must stop.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Proud to be an American. Citizen that is.

We are non-voting Americans who are going to have our very own non-voting delegate. This is the first step in getting closer to becoming a real American. We must try to convince those in D.C. to treat us like real Americans by allowing us to be able to vote and run for President of the United States. We should not be discriminated against by not being allowed these rights. What out U.S. President does has an effect on the Marianas and other U.S. territories (military buildup, federalization, funding, etc.). We have many friends and relatives from the CNMI who are fighting and dying for our country. Hopefully one day, we will have a voting delegate as well. I have faith in America and hope to see the day where all Americans can vote and run for U.S. President.

Jesse Torres
Kagman, Saipan

Letters to the Editor

Finally, it's over

After a long and contentious year, the Marianas archipelago now has a marine national monument—whether we like it or not. Obviously, I am disappointed that the President felt it necessary to use the strong-armed approach of the Antiquities Act in combination with the insensitive campaign tactics of the Pew Environment Group in order to create his environmental "blue legacy." However, so be it.

In an attempt to move forward, I am OK with the final version of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. In reality, the best we could probably hope for was that the White House would listen to our concerns. Remarkably, they did!

With the unified regional opposition from all the Micronesian leaders against both the approach in which the national marine monument process was being pursued and the Pew monument proposal, the White House was compelled to sit down and actually address the concerns raised by the Marianas islanders. I wish to congratulate those CNMI government individuals who worked directly with the CEQ/White House staff on developing a totally new monument plan that was unique to the needs of the Mariana people while addressing the bigger picture of environmental protection. We accomplished what we set out to do: dismantle the Pew monument proposal.

Of course, we could not have been successful without the continuing morale support from the CNMI silent majority—those islanders who do not write Letters-to-the-Editor or blog. With your encouragement, all of us who actively participated in opposing the Pew monument proposal were able to maintain our focus and direction throughout this arduous campaign. I/we appreciate your support. Thank you.

We have a monument. I hope we can embrace it and try to make it work for the CNMI.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan

Salvation Army says thanks

The Salvation Army wishes to thank all those who participated in our Kettle Season this year. We are grateful to all the great folks at Price Costco for hosting us again this year. They are a wonderful group and allowing us to ring there speaks volumes about their community spirit and concern for the less fortunate. We are grateful to Marianas Cable Vision for conducting a toy drive for us again this year. Mark Birmingham and the folks at MCV are always doing something to help The Salvation Army and our clients and we cannot thank them enough.

We are also grateful to the Rotary Club of Saipan for their contributions to our toy drives. This wonderful group of folks are hard at work every day in helping our community and their assistance to The Salvation Army is just one example. We are also grateful to National Office Supply and Kagman Market for hosting our counter kettles this season. We are especially thankful that they hosted them through the entire year. Their sponsorship also speaks well of their concern for the needy and their commitment to help. We are thankful for our Advisory Board and their continuing involvement in our programs and outreaches.

Finally, we want to thank everyone who dropped money into our kettles, food into our food box and those who donated or toys for our toy drives. We cannot overemphasize the large and important role that all of you play in the meeting of needs in our community.

On a more personal note, we want to thank all the people who stopped by our kettles to say hi and chat. Ringing kettles is something we look forward to every year because everyone is so friendly. We love to meet new people, to see kids from the previous year and how much they have grown and of course, the new babies! We look forward to next year's Kettle Season and hope that we can again work with all our sponsors and donors. Through your continuing generous support, The Salvation Army will be able to continue to feed and care for the homeless and the less fortunate.

Wayne Gillespie
via e-mail

One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church

The story of one Vic Cepeda allegedly claiming Kristo Rai Church as a church not for Filipinos is one that earns a place amongst the Most Dishonorable Acts of 2008.

This statement brings to mind the Sadducees and the Pharisees who made up Israel's religious ruling class at the time of Jesus. Many of them were affluent and occupied influential positions in the community. Due perhaps to this, they had a hard time relating to the average Joe six packs of their time. Perhaps, Vic thinks that being a member of Kristo Rai's Parish Pastoral Council gives him certain powers over other "lower" people and offers him immunity when it comes to uttering racist remarks. One would assume that as a member of this respected Council, Vic would know that his duty, among other things, is to provide advice and support to the parish priest and the parishioners. Perhaps, he has forgotten the basic tenets of the Catholic faith. If this were the case, Vic needs to go back to taking religion classes at Mt. Carmel School, where he was once principal, because he clearly misses the whole point of being a Catholic.

Let us, as Catholics on the island, at the very least educate Vic again on the 4 Marks of the Catholic Church—One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic:

ONE. *One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism.* It has long been understood by all Catholics that a building doesn't make Christ's church. It is made up of people who gather together as one community to worship and praise God. The Church is a refuge for all peoples; it offers sanctuary to all.

HOLY. Our faith is anchored on the principle that when we gather as one congregation, we make up Christ's Church. *This is the will of God, our sanctification.*

CATHOLIC. *For all men, for all ages, from Pentecost to the end of the world.* When any Church welcomes only one race or one group of people, it ceases to be Catholic; it loses its universal aspect which was what Jesus Christ championed.

APOSTOLIC. *The Church is founded upon Christ's Apostles and their successors to the end of time. These men succeed to the Mission, Authority and Orders of the Apostles.* Jesus Christ taught his Apostles to welcome saints and sinners, the rich and poor, and the old and young. Deviating from the teachings of the Apostles deviates from Christ's teachings as well.

So you see, Vic, when you made that statement alleging that Kristo Rai Church is not for Filipinos, you have created an act that is un-Catholic in particular and un-Christian in general. To do this during the period celebrating Christ's birth, Christmas, is even more appalling.

The Coalition for the Recognition and Equality of American Ethnic Minorities (CREAM) offers support to the call of the Choir Group, 9:30am Mass to refrain from attending Mass at Kristo Rai Church until Vic issues an apology to the church, particularly to the people affected.

CREAM is requesting the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to restore peace and harmony amongst its parishioners by correcting this discriminatory act and leading the entire community in welcoming anyone, regardless of race, inside the folds of the Church.

Interim-Officers and Members
Coalition for the Recognition and Equality of American Ethnic Minorities (CREAM)

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From Page 10

life—from large predators like sharks and rays, to more than 300 species of stony corals. By studying these pristine waters, scientists can advance our understanding of tropical marine ecosystems not only there, but around the world.

The second new monument will be the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. The monument will span seven areas to the far south and west of Hawaii. One is Wake Island—the site of a pivotal battle in World War II, and a key habitat for nesting seabirds and migratory shorebirds. The monument will also include unique trees and grasses and birds adapted to life at the Equator; the rare sea turtles and whales and Hawaiian monk seals that visit Johnston Atoll; and some of the most pristine and spectacular coral reefs in the world. These isolated specks of land and abundant marine ecosystems are almost completely undisturbed by mankind. And as part of the Pacific Remote Islands National Monument, they will be ideal laboratories for scientific research.

The third new monument will be the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument. Rose is a diamond-shaped island to the east of American Samoa—our nation's southernmost territory. It includes rare species of nesting petrels, shearwaters, and terns—which account for its native name, "Island of Seabirds." The waters surrounding the atoll are the home of many rare species, including giant clams and reef sharks—as well as an unusual abundance of rose-colored corals. This area has long been renowned as a place of natural beauty. And now that it's protected by law, it will also be a place of learning for generations to come.

Taken together, these three new national monuments cover nearly 200,000 square miles, and they will now receive our nation's highest level of environmental recognition and conservation. This decision came after a lot of consultation—consultation with local officials, consultation with prominent scientists, consultation with environmental advocates, consultation with the United States military and the fishing community. Based on these consultations, as well as sound resource management principles, the monuments will prohibit resource destruction or extraction, waste dumping, and commercial fishing. They will allow for research, free passage, and recreation—including the possibility of recreational fishing one day. For seabirds and marine life, they will be sanctuaries to grow and thrive. For scientists, they will be places to extend the frontiers of discovery. And for the American people, they will be places that honor our duty to be good stewards of the Almighty's creation.

The benefits of today's decision reach far beyond nature. The monuments will preserve sites of cultural and spiritual significance to native peoples. They will ensure full freedom of navigation, and include measures to uphold training missions and other military operations. And they will open the door to new economic benefits in the Territories. After all, if travelers now, or students, or scientists, book a ticket to Saipan or Pago Pago, they will know they're headed for a place with friendly people and a vibrant culture, and some of our country's most treasured natural resources.

This morning I'm also pleased—today I'm also pleased to share some news about two other national treasures. One is the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, which I created in 2006. This stunning island chain is the largest single conservation area in American history, and the largest fully protected marine area in the world. And the other is Mount Vernon—the home of America's first President and an agricultural pioneer—that would be George Washington. I'm pleased to announce the United States will soon submit a request that these two landmarks become UNESCO World Heritage sites—America's first such submission in 15 years.

The new steps I've announced today are the capstone of an eight-year commitment to strong environmental protection and conservation. Look, I know that sounds contrary to the conventional wisdom of many in the news media. But let me just share a few facts about our record—and you can be the judge for yourself:

Since 2001, air pollution has dropped by 12 percent. The strictest air quality standards in American history are now in place, as are strong regulations on power plant and diesel engine emissions. More than 3.6 million acres of wetlands have been protected, restored, or improved. Millions of acres of vital natural habitat have been conserved on farms. More than 27 million acres of federal forest land have been protected from catastrophic wildfires. The maintenance backlog in our national parks has been reduced. More than 11,000 abandoned industrial brownfields are on their way back to productive use. We've had a new focus on cleaning debris from our oceans. Popular recreational fish like the striped bass and red drum are gaining new protection. And new marine protected areas are helping improve the health of our fisheries off the southeast coast.

At the same time, we've taken aggressive steps to make America's energy supply cleaner and more secure—and confronted the challenge of global climate change. I signed two major energy bills. We raised fuel efficiency standards for automobiles for the first time in more than a decade. We mandated major increases in the use of renewable fuels and the efficiency of lighting and appliances.

We dedicated more than $18 billion to developing clean and efficient technologies like biofuels, advanced batteries and hydrogen fuel cells, solar and wind power, and clean, safe nuclear power. We're providing more than $40 billion in loan guarantees to put these technologies to use.

We forged an international agreement under the Montreal Protocol mandating major cuts in refrigerants that are some of the most potent greenhouse gases. We built international consensus on an approach that will replace the Kyoto Protocol with a global climate agreement that calls for meaningful commitments to reduce greenhouse gases from all major economies, including India and China.

With all these steps, we have charted the way toward a more promising era in environmental stewardship. We have pioneered a new model of cooperative conservation in which government and private citizens and environmental advocates work together to achieve common goals. And while there's a lot more work to be done, we have done our part to leave behind a cleaner and healthier and better world for those who follow us on this Earth.

And now I'd like those who have been assigned the task of standing up here to join me as I sign the national monuments. (Applause.)

BE WISE, KNOW *your* RISK!

Here is a quick quiz to find out your risk of a heart attack. If you don't know some of the answers, check with your health care provider.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Do you smoke?			
Is your blood pressure 140/90 mmHg or higher, OR have you been told by your doctor that your blood pressure is too high?			
Has your doctor told you that your total cholesterol level is 200 mg/dL or higher, OR your HDL (good cholesterol) is less than 40 mg/dL?			
Has your father or brother had a heart attack before age 55, OR has your mother or sister had one before age 65?			
Do you have diabetes OR a fasting blood sugar of 126 mg/dL or higher, OR do you need medicine to control your blood sugar?			
Are you over 55 years old?			
Do you have a body mass index (BMI) score of 25 or more?			
Do you get less than a total of 30 minutes of physical activity on most days?			
Has a doctor told you that you have angina (chest pains), OR have you had a heart attack?			

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you're at an increased risk of having a heart attack.

To learn more, visit www.hearttruth.gov

Source: The Healthy Heart Handbook for Women, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (2007).

To learn more, please call the Division of Public Health – Wise Women Project at 234-8950 ext. 2141

The Wise Women Project is federally funded by the US DHHS Office on Women's Health ASIST2010 Initiative.

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2005 Kia Spectra
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Snapshots from Kilili's Swearing-In

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, fourth from left, poses with Edward Dlg. Pangelinan, Merced Aldan-Ada, Andrea Sablan, Patricia Sablan, Jesse Sablan, and Jay Livingstone.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

While waiting for the ceremonial swearing in, Delegates Donna M. Christensen of U.S. Virgin Islands, Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of CNMI and Madeleine Z. Bordallo of Guam, and Sablan's wife Andrea posed for pictures at the U.S. Capitol.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan with family after his ceremonial swearing-in at the Rayburn Room of the U.S. Capitol. From left are Sablan's daughter Patricia, wife Andrea and son Jesse.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan walks along the halls of the Cannon House Office Building. With him are his family; Edward DLG. Pangelinan, former chairman of the Marianas Political Status Commission; and Pete A. Tenorio, former CNMI Resident Representative to Washington, D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

While waiting for the ceremonial swearing in, U.S Virgin Islands Delegate Donna M. Christensen, Board of Education chair Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, and CNMI Commissioner of Education Rita M. Sablan pose for pictures at the U.S. Capitol, Washington, D.C.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Gregorio C. Sablan, wife Andrea Sablan, and Rep. Mike Honda from California.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Gregorio C. Sablan and his chief of staff, Bob Schwalbach.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer drop by the CNMI delegate's Cannon House Building Office to congratulate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Northern Mariana Island's first delegate to Congress.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Education Commissioner Rita M. Sablan and Public School System Board of Education chair Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita were among the guests at the open house of the CNMI delegate's Washington office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan poses with former CNMI Resident Representatives to Washington, D.C. Pete A. Tenorio. Sablan invited Tenorio to his ceremonial swearing at the Rayburn Room of the U.S. Capitol.

PTI rebrands as IT&E; unifies brand for NMI, Guam

Beginning today, CNMI residents will see a new look but a familiar name when driving by the PTI offices in Chalan LauLau and Garapan as PTI will now be known as IT&E. All products and services will remain unchanged except for the new brand name.

"IT&E and PTI are now one company, and placing all of our telecommunications products and services under one brand is the right thing to do for our customers," said Ricky Delgado, president and CEO of IT&E. "We want our island residents to know that no matter where they are in the Marianas, IT&E is here for them."

Just as with PTI, the main color of the IT&E logo is blue, symbolizing the company's continued commitment to the local CNMI community. The blue button, in which the name IT&E is inscribed is about the sleek, clean and progressive image of technology. The brushed silver frame symbolizes a window to the future and the fact that IT&E will constantly bring the latest technology to its customers. It is classic and simple, rendered in a manner that also reflects the company's corporate tradition.

Also unveiled was IT&E's new tagline, "Life in Motion".

"It was chosen because of the constant advancement in technology that allows people to do more than ever from their home, office or on the go," said Larry Knecht, executive vice-president and CFO of IT&E. "The tagline 'Life in Motion' means that as a company we recognize our customers' need to communicate in an ever-increasing variety of ways and places."

EVDO technology and Mobile Broadband service are just two of the innovations that IT&E and the PTI group of companies have brought to the region in the last several months.

"Introducing new products and making the world's finest high speed mobile broadband technology immediately accessible in the CNMI and Guam is in keeping with the IT&E tradition that started three decades ago," Knecht said.

IT&E's EVDO high speed network is the same used by U.S. telecom giants Verizon Wireless and Sprint, who have well over half of the US wireless market. IT&E is the only wireless carrier with high speed wireless coverage and 100 percent network redundancy in the CNMI and Guam.

When asked why the IT&E name was chosen over PTI, Delgado shared that the IT&E brand name is close to 30 years old with a strong market presence in the both the CNMI and Guam. "PTI is a little over three years old with limited exposure in Guam. We felt that there was a great deal of value to the IT&E brand since they were instrumental in bringing affordable and reliable communications to our region, they have a long track record of supporting the local community, and are well known to all the customers we serve."

"PTI is still very much alive", said Delgado. PTI will continue to be very active in the prepaid long distance card market in the region," he added. "PTI is known for offering quality products and services and will continue to be a part of the business landscape in the Marianas and beyond."

IT&E is also updating their offices in Tinian and Rota with the same interactive wireless displays found in the CNMI and Guam that allow customer a chance to try a device prior to purchase. The new brand look and feel will also be a part of the improvements that are in progress.

With over 75,000 total subscribers on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam, the PTI Group of Companies of which IT&E is a part, is the largest telecommunications company in the Marianas. ***(PR)***

Nursing education focus of regional summit

To further strengthen regional collaborative efforts in the nursing field, Northern Marianas College instructor Pasquana Calvo recently participated in regional summit that focused on improving nursing education in the Pacific.

Held in Honolulu, Hawaii, the United States Associated Pacific Islands Nursing Program Directors Meeting was sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service/Health and Human Services and the University of Hawaii's School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene.

"I was very pleased to be invited to this important summit," said Calvo, who is also the college's Nursing Department acting chair. "In addition to networking with other nursing professionals in the region, I was able to obtain useful information that would benefit our nursing program and practices."

The topics covered in the meeting included nursing faculty development programs, online technology learning sessions, completion of mapping projects, a discussion on the proposed master's and doctoral nursing degree program through distance education in the Pacific region, and a host of other sessions specifically dealing with the outbreak of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. Summit participants also met key leaders from Hawaii and throughout the Pacific.

Calvo represented the CNMI and was joined by others from American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Hawaii. Her trip expenses were paid by federal funds.

The Northern Marianas College is also continuing its ongoing efforts to gain additional accreditation from the National League for Nursing. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC Nursing instructor Pasquana Calvo, left, poses for a photo with NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. Calvo recently returned from the U.S. Associated Pacific Islands Nursing Program Directors Meeting in Honolulu.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

BRADLEY JOHN TOVES ATALIG aka LARRY JOHN TOVES ATALIG and NANETTE E. ATALIG (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 20, 2001, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on October 2, 2001, under Document No. 01-2166 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 347 R 96, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 827 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 347 R 07, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4282, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$26,230.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$82,930.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/_____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

JUAN F. BARCINAS and BARBARA DLC. EVANGELISTA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about June 14, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on June 16, 1983, under Document No. 17490 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT 001 T 52, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 001 T 00, DATED AUGUST 14, 1969, AND CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,486 SQUARE METERS.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$82,930.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009,** at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$82,930.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/_____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

BLAS T. MAGOFNA ("Trustor"), on or about January 12, 1995, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on January 20, 1995, under Document No. 95-143 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 B 12, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 737 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 5014/94, DATED FEBRUARY 7, 1994, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 94-396, DATED FEBRUARY 10, 1994, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009,** at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$49,330.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009,** at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$49,330.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/_____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

CARMENT T. ANDON and SAMUEL M. ANDON (collectively "Trustor"), on or about October 22, 2004, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 2, 2004, under Document No. 04-2544 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 308, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 797 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 06, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4414, DATED DECEMBER 16, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its 2nd Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$43,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009,** at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$43,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/_____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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Business

Pink slips pile higher amid deepening recession

WASHINGTON (AP)—Pink slips are piling higher as companies scramble to cut costs even deeper to survive the country's economic and financial storms.

Just days into the new year, managed care provider Cigna Corp., aluminum producer Alcoa Inc., data-storage company EMC Corp. and computer products maker Logitech International were among those announcing layoffs to cope with a recession that has just entered its second year. The flurry of job cuts suggest the employment picture will remain grim this year.

A barometer on layoffs is expected to show Thursday that the number of newly laid off people signing up for state unemployment insurance last week rose to 540,000, up from 492,000 in the previous week, according to economists' projections.

The number of people continuing to draw jobless benefits is projected to stay near 4.5 million, demonstrating the troubles the unemployed are having in finding new jobs.

Electronic unemployment filing systems have crashed in at least three states in recent days due to the crush of newly jobless Americans seeking benefits.

"Businesses were panicked at the end of the year and those that had been holding off on layoffs are now capitulating," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com.

With jobs disappearing, shoppers held tight to their wallets and pocketbooks last month.

Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers, predicts retail sales out Thursday will show a drop for December and the worst holiday shopping season since at least 1969.

For all of 2008, employers likely slashed payrolls by at least 2.4 million. That's based on economists' forecasts for a net loss of 500,000 additional jobs in December, as well as the job losses already reported every month last year by the government. Some, however, think the number of jobs cut last month will be higher—around 600,000 or 700,000. The Labor Department will release that report Friday.

AP

A homeless man walks with his belongings through a park in Tokyo Friday, Dec. 26, 2008. The job cuts are already being reflected in a higher unemployment rate, which rose to 3.9 percent in November from 3.7 percent in October, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said.

If the conservative, 2.4 million estimate of payroll reductions for 2008 proves correct, it would mark the first annual job loss since the previous recession in 2001. It also would be the worst year of job losses since 1945, when employers slashed nearly 2.8 million jobs. Though the number of jobs in the United States has more than tripled since then, job losses of that magnitude would be sober testimony to the nation's economic woes.

With employers throttling back hiring, the unemployment rate is expected to jump from 6.7 percent in November to 7 percent in December, which would be the highest in 15-1/2 years. That figure also will be released Friday.

President-elect Barack Obama, who takes over Jan. 20, is proposing a mammoth $775 billion package of tax cuts and government spending over two years to revive the moribund economy. With add-ons by lawmakers, the package could swell to $850 billion, his advisers say.

Survey says auto execs pessimistic about future

DETROIT (AP)—Auto executives across the globe are increasingly pessimistic about their industry, and only a small number expect their companies' profits to rise in the next five years, according to an annual survey.

The survey of 200 senior executives worldwide painted a bleak picture for the industry, with most predicting continued restructuring and too much factory capacity across the globe, according to the survey conducted by the accounting and advisory firm KPMG LLP.

Many expected Detroit's three automakers to continue their market share decline during the next five years, with Toyota Motor Corp., Hyundai Motor Co., Honda Motor Co., and Volkswagen AG continuing to gain. But they also thought the U.S.-based manufacturers would continue to become more efficient and competitive.

"Clearly the result this year compared to past years we've done the survey is a much gloomier view," Betsy Meter, KPMG's automotive audit sector leader, said in an interview.

In 2007, executives in emerging markets such as China were more optimistic than those in mature markets like the U.S., but now even they generally are a bit more pessimistic, Meter said.

Asia stocks tumble amid renewed economy worries

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets fell sharply Thursday, with benchmarks in Tokyo and Hong Kong tumbling more than 3 percent, as more evidence of company woes and a weak U.S. job market rekindled worries about the unfolding global slump.

Every major market in the region suffered declines, marking an end to a New Year's rally which had been spurred by speculation that massive government spending and low interest rates would lead to an economic rebound later this year.

But hopes seem to fade after dour outlooks from tech heavyweight Intel, computer maker Lenovo and aluminum producer Alcoa highlighted the toll that the global slump is taking on companies. A worse-than-expected reading of the U.S. labor market only added to investor worries.

"The economic reality is sinking in for investors and 'the hope rally' that many thought would last until Obama's inauguration seems to be at least fizzling for now," said Kirby Daley, senior strategist at Newedge Group in Hong Kong. "While there is potential for a bear market rally to re-emerge, I would be very leery of buying at current levels."

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 stock average lost 315.78, or 3.4 percent, to 8,923.46, snapping a seven-day winning streak as the yen traded higher and Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell 535.94 points, or 3.6 percent, to 14,451.52.

Oil steady below $43 after plunging on US report

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices were steady below $43 a barrel Thursday in Asia after a higher-than-expected increase in U.S. inventories sparked a 12 percent plunge in crude overnight.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery dipped 14 cents to $42.49 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore.

On Wednesday, the contract tumbled $5.95 to settle at $42.63 after the Energy Information Administration said that inventories of commercial crude oil inventories rose 6.7 million barrels. That was well above the 1.5 million-barrel build expected by analysts surveyed by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

"Those inventory numbers reminded the market that demand remains weak," said Toby Hassall, an analyst with investment firm Commodity Warrants Australia in Sydney. "Any price rallies are likely to be short-lived in the near term."

More dismal economic and corporate news from the U.S. also suggested demand is slowing and helped push prices lower.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

EMC to cut 2,400 jobs, sees meeting 4Q estimates

HOPKINTON, Mass. (AP)—Data storage company EMC Corp. said late Wednesday it will lay off 2,400 people to bring down costs despite projecting fourth-quarter results will meet expectations. EMC, the world's largest maker of external disk storage devices, said the restructuring will reduce expenses by $350 million in 2009 by streamlining back-office operations and cutting layers of management. The job cuts represent about 7 percent of the company's work force. The announcement sent shares up 6 percent in after-hours trading. For the quarter ended in December, EMC said it expects to report adjusted earnings of 23 cents or 24 cents per share, excluding charges associated with the job cuts.

China's Lenovo to cut 11 percent of workforce

BEIJING (AP)—Shares of Lenovo Group tumbled Thursday after the world's fourth-largest computer maker warned it expects a loss for its latest quarter and will lay off 11 percent of its workforce and cut executive pay. Lenovo said it will eliminate about 2,500 jobs worldwide, including some management positions. It said executive compensation would be cut by 30 to 50 percent. "As hard as this news is for all of our Lenovo employees, we believe the steps we are taking today are necessary for Lenovo to compete in today's economy," Chief Executive William J. Amelio said in a statement. Lenovo shares plunged in Hong Kong, falling 20.9 percent to HK$2.05 (26.4 U.S. cents) at midday. Beijing-based Lenovo's quarterly profit shrank 78 percent for the three months ended Sept. 30. The company warned at that time of possible job cuts.

Intel will miss its already-lowered 4Q targets

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Even after sharply reducing its outlook for the fourth quarter, Intel Corp. said Wednesday that it would miss its revenue projection by about $500 million, a sign that PC makers and buyers are being more tightfisted than it seemed only two months ago. Intel shares closed down 6 percent. Santa Clara, Calif.-based Intel, the world's largest chip maker, now says revenue was $8.2 billion for the last three months of 2008, a 23 percent decline from the year-ago period. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters were expecting $8.7 billion, which was at the low end of the range Intel provided in November of $8.7 billion to $9.3 billion. Intel's profits also are being hit. It expects its gross profit margin to be at the bottom of its previous guidance, which was for 53 to 57 percent of revenue. Gross profit is the amount of money a company earns after manufacturing costs are stripped out. It's a valuable gauge of how well companies are controlling their costs, and is particularly useful in looking at chip makers since their manufacturing expenses are huge.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	3,694.30 Down 85.40 (-2.26%)
HONG KONG	14,438.61 Down 548.85 (-3.66%)
JAKARTA	1,397.20 Down 24.27 (-1.71%)
TOKYO	8,923.28 Down 415.96 (-3.42%)
K. LUMPUR	909.94 Down 17.68 (-1.91%)
MANILA	1,970.72 Down 33.17 (-1.66%)
SINGAPORE	1,841.60 Down 38.98 (-2.07%)
SEOUL	1,205.70 Down 22.47 (-1.83%)
BANGKOK	457.44 Down 5.52 (-1.19%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	8,769.70 -2.72%
S&P	906.65 -3%
NASDAQ	1,599.06 -2.23%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.4177
British Pound	0.6649
Canadian Dollar	1.1957
Chinese Yuan	6.8353
Euro	0.7343
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7545
Indian Rupee	48.8150
Indonesian Rupiah	10,980.0000
Japanese Yen	92.4140
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5340
New Zealand Dollar	1.8248
Philippine Peso	46.9000
Singapore Dollar	1.4844
South Korean Won	1,333.2000
Swiss Franc	1.2005
Taiwan Dollar	33.0950
Thailand Baht	34.9350

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Obama hails 'extraordinary' moment with presidents

WASHINGTON (AP)—Confronting a grim economy and a Middle East on fire, Barack Obama turned Wednesday to perhaps the only people on the planet who understand what he's in for: the four living members of the U.S. presidents' club. In an image bound to go down in history, every living U.S. president came together at the White House on Wednesday to hash over the world's challenges with the president-elect. There they stood, shoulder-to-shoulder in the Oval Office: George H.W. Bush, Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter.

"This is an extraordinary gathering," Obama said, looking plenty at ease in the humbling office that will soon be his.

"All the gentlemen here understand both the pressures and possibilities of this office," Obama said. "And for me to have the opportunity to get advice, good counsel and fellowship with these individuals is extraordinary. And I'm very grateful to all of them."

AP

President-elect Barack Obama is welcomed by President George W. Bush for a meeting at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, with former presidents, from left, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and Jimmy Carter.

Bush, blistered without mercy by Obama during the campaign season, played the role of gracious host.

"All of us who have served in this office understand that the office transcends the individual," Bush said as Obama nodded in thanks. "And we wish you all the very best. And so does the country."

It was a moment of statesmanship that tends to happen when presidents get together, no matter how bitter their previous rivalries. In a photo opportunity that lasted less than two minutes, Carter, Clinton and the senior Bush smiled but said nothing. They deferred to the nation's incoming and outgoing leaders.

Earlier, Bush and Obama met privately in the Oval Office in a chat expected to cover events of the day, mainly the troubled economy and Middle East. The two have shown solidarity since Obama's win in November, with one previous Oval Office sit-down and at least a few phone calls in recent weeks.

Feds say inauguration attractive terrorist target

WASHINGTON (AP)—The upcoming inauguration of Barack Obama is an attractive target for international and domestic terrorists, but U.S. intelligence officials have no information about specific threats to the Jan. 20 event.

An internal intelligence assessment, obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday, says the high visibility of the event, the presence of dignitaries and the significance of swearing in the country's first black president make the inauguration vulnerable to attacks.

What concerns analysts most, the report says, is the potential use of improvised explosive devices, a hostage situation or suicide bombers.

While security will be tight around the U.S. Capitol, the joint FBI and Homeland Security assessment says nearby hotels, public gatherings, restaurants and roads could be vulnerable to some kind of attack.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said security concerns during inaugurations have been elevated since the 2001 terror attacks. "I think it will be the most security, as far as I'm aware, that any inauguration has had," Chertoff said in an interview with the AP.

Chertoff also said there is no specific intelligence pointing to terrorist plots during the event.

"We have scrubbed very hard to look at anything that would suggest a credible, imminent threat or one that was specifically focused on the inauguration," Chertoff said, though not referring to the intelligence assessment. "We're not, at this point, aware of a credible, specific, imminent threat that would affect the inauguration."

The Secret Service, which is in charge of the overall security for the event, announced Wednesday that bridges into Washington and about 3.5 square miles of the downtown will be closed on Jan. 20. The security perimeter covers more of the city than previous inaugurations.

The analysis says that threats against Obama have increased since he was elected, which also poses concern for the inauguration.

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N O T I C E
(December 31, 2008)

Pursuant to Subsection 5.2 of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's (NMHC) Revised Administrative Plan (2007), NMHC wants to respectfully inform the general public that it will **STOP** accepting applications for its Saipan-based Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program beginning on January 31, 2009 due to the following reason(s):

1) There are currently 658 active Saipan applicants on the HCV program's waiting list and no available vouchers.

Please be further advised that the Tinian and Rota-based Section 8 HCV Programs will continue with its application intake and shall not be affected by this Notice. Similarly, the Section 8 Multifamily programs for all three (3) islands will also remain open.

NMHC will notify the public as soon as it is ready to begin accepting applications for its Saipan-based Section 8 HCV Program.

Thank you and should have any questions, please feel free to contact Kimo Rosario, Program and Housing Division Manager, at NMHC's Main Office on Saipan.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

CELINA M. SETEFANO and VILIAMI S. SETEFANO (collectively "Trustor"), on or about August 2, 1983, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on August 3, 1983, under Document No. 17659 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 002 F 67, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 1,230 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 002 F 00, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS REGISTERED WITH THE LAND REGISTRY AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 691, ON THE 1ST DAY OF MARCH, 1971.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$43,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$43,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/_____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

MARINA A. BAUTISTA and LORETO L. BAUTISTA (collectively "Trustor"), on or about November 15, 1999, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on November 15, 1999, under Document No. 99-2777 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 011 G 972, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 781 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 011 G 18, DATED DECEMBER 3, 1993, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 93-4286, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1993, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$50,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The further right is reserved, in the absence of satisfactory bids for the outright sale of the said parcel of real property to a qualified buyer, to offer such property at the same time and place, or at a later time, for long-term lease to any person on the usual terms and conditions for long term leases of real property offered by the Trustee to the highest bidder for such lease. The minimum bid amount of **$50,730.00** shall also apply with lump sum payment for the term of the lease.

The lease shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The lease price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/_____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

NOVA ANN T. QUITUGUA and RAY J. TAITAGUE (collectively "Trustor"), on or about September 24, 1998, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 28, 1998, under Document No. 98-3008 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 330 R 232, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 924 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS SHOWN ON THE DIVISION OF LANDS AND SURVEY'S OFFICIAL CADASTRAL PLAT NUMBER 330 R 05, DATED MARCH 13, 1992, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 92-861, DATED MARCH 16, 1992, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on September 12, 2008. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on **January 15, 2009**, at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$26,930.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Acting Chairperson of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **January 14, 2009**, at **4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than January 14, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

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Dated this 10th day of December 2008.

By: _____/s/_____
JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/9447 for more information.

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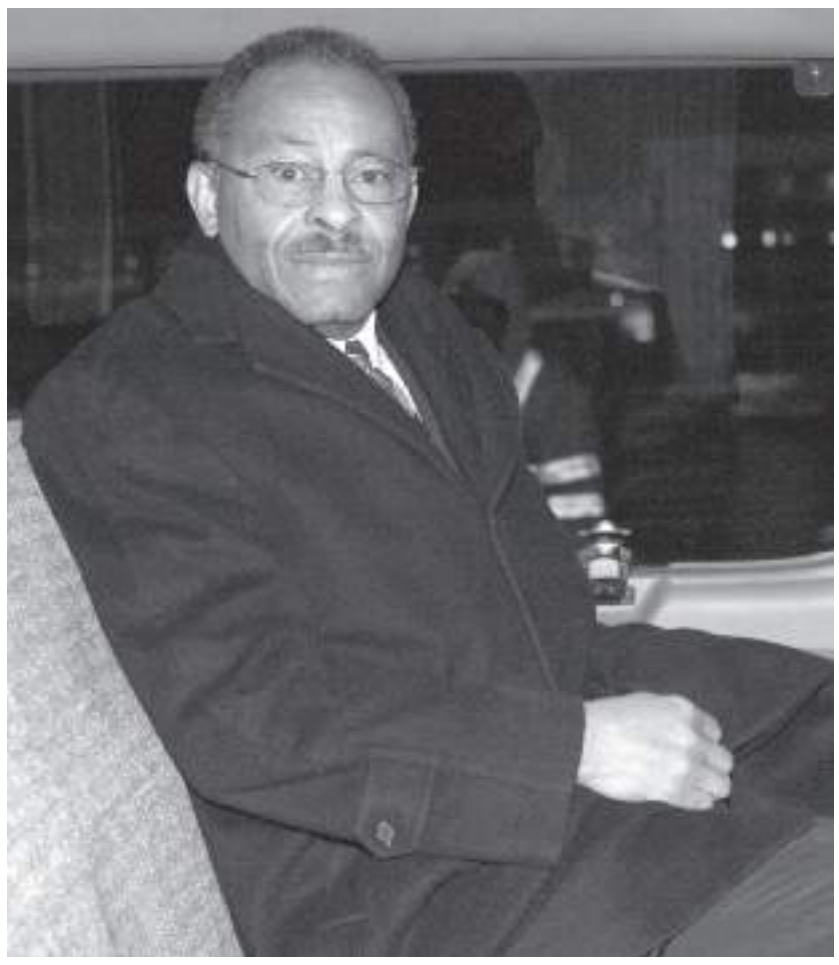
Senate Democrats yield to Obama, retreat on Burris

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Democrats beat a hasty retreat Wednesday from their rejection of Roland Burris as President-elect Barack Obama's successor, yielding to pressure from Obama himself and from senators irked that the standoff was draining attention and putting them in a bad light. Burris said with a smile he expected to join them "very shortly."

Though there was no agreement yet to swear Burris in, he posed for photos at the Capitol with Senate leaders, then joined them for a 45-minute meeting followed by supportive words that bordered on gushing. The events came one day after Burris had left the Capitol in the pouring rain in a scripted rejection.

Obama had spoken to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid on Monday on the need to find a quick solution to defuse the dispute, according to Democratic officials. Reid was told by Obama that if Burris had the legal standing to be seated—despite controversy surrounding his appointment by Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich—it should be done "sooner rather than later," said an Obama transition aide, speaking on condition of anonymity because the conversation was private.

The dispute had taken on racial overtones after comments by some Burris supporters. The former Illinois attorney general would be the Senate's only black member following Obama's departure.



AP

U.S. Senate appointee Roland Burris sits on the van as he leaves after a news conference at Midway airport, Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, in Chicago.

"My whole interest in this experience is to be prepared" to lead Illinois, Burris, 71, said after meeting with Reid and assistant Democratic leader Dick Durbin, himself an Illinois senator. "Very shortly I will have the opportunity to do that."

Neither Reid nor Durbin disputed that, though they had declared with certainty a week ago that Democrats would not seat a senator appointed by a governor now accused of trying to sell the seat. Obama said then, "I agree with their decision."

On Wednesday, only words of good will, with photos, poured forth.

Obama told reporters that he knew Burris, liked him and would be happy to work with him.

The Democratic leaders brought Burris in from the rain and into Reid's spacious personal office just off the Senate floor for a meeting that had been set up last week. They invited news photographers in to capture the three—Burris in the middle—laughing and chatting.

Reid and Durbin then retreated from their won't-be-seated rhetoric and cast the dispute as a procedural delay caused by concerns about why Blagojevich made the appointment.

"First of all, understand we don't have a problem with him as an individual," Reid said of Burris, calling him an "extremely nice" and "forthright" man. "At this stage, the process is working out," he said.

Added Durbin: "I've known him for such a long time. We are friends and on a first-name basis."

The embraces reflected a growing expectation among Senate officials in both parties that the former state attorney general eventually would be seated.

As Reid and Durbin described it, the process depends on two developments: Burris securing the right signoff on his appointment papers, plus a sworn declaration that he didn't offer anything to Blagojevich in exchange for the seat.

"There was certainly no pay-to-play involved, because I don't have no money," Burris told reporters after his Senate meeting, previewing his sworn answer to that question.

It's a key issue in resolving the dispute.

Blagojevich is accused of trying to get something for himself in return for the appointment, an allegation he denies. By appointing Burris, he defied Senate Democrats who warned that a taint of corruption would strip credibility from anyone he named to fill the vacancy.

Obama names special watchdog for federal spending

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Barack Obama said Wednesday that reforming massive government entitlement programs—such as Social Security and Medicare—would be "a central part" of his effort to control federal spending. Obama made the pledge but provided few details as he named Nancy Killefer as his administration's chief performance officer, creating a new White House position aimed at eliminating government waste and improving efficiency.

Noting that the Congressional Budget Office had just estimated he would inherit a $1.2 trillion federal deficit for fiscal 2009, Obama promised to cut unnecessary spending.

"We expect that discussion around entitlements will be a part, a central part of those plans," Obama said. "And I would expect that by February in line with the announcement of at least a rough budget outline we will have more to say about how we're going to approach entitlement spending."

For the first time, Obama gave a ballpark price tag for his massive economic plan aimed at generating jobs and jolting the country out of recession. Aides have said it could cost as much as $775 billion over two years. Outside economists have suggested as much as $1.2 trillion would be needed.

"We expect that it will be on the high end of our estimates but will not be as high as some economists have recommended because of the constraint and concerns we have about the existing deficit," Obama said.

He plans to give a speech on the economy at George Mason University in Virginia on Thursday to lay out his reasons why Congress should quickly pass his still-evolving economic plan.

At the brief news conference Wednesday at his transition headquarters, Obama also deferred to President George W. Bush on the conflict between Israel and Hamas. Even as he's delved into domestic issues, Obama has refrained from commenting on the conflict and has insisted that he would allow the current chief executive to deal with foreign policy matters until the Jan. 20 inauguration.

"We can't have two administrations running foreign policy at the same time. We simply can't do it," Obama said. "The silence is not as a consequence of a lack of concern. In fact, it's not silence. ... I've explained very clearly what institutional constraints I'm under when it comes to this issue."

Melting snow causes heavy flooding in Wash. state

SNOQUALMIE, Wash. (AP)—Rain and high winds lashed Washington state Wednesday, causing widespread avalanches, mudslides, flooding and road closures as the heavy snowfall that has buried parts of the state began to rapidly melt.

More than 30,000 people were told to leave their homes in flood-endangered areas across western Washington as authorities warned of heavy flooding.

"This is going to be a memorable flood event," said Andy Haner, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Seattle.

Fire trucks rolled through Orting, about 10 miles southeast of Tacoma, with loudspeakers advising everyone to leave the town and surrounding valley, home to about 26,000 people. Sandbags were placed around many downtown homes and businesses as the Puyallup River neared record levels. It was forecast to crest Thursday.

"They expect the town of Orting to go under water," Pierce County sheriff's Detective Ed Troyer said, adding that the flooding could be the worst in more than a decade.

Tacoma Mayor Bill Baarsma declared a civil emergency because of flood risks at Puyallup River.

Throughout the state, about 60 highways were closed, including all east-west passes across the Cascade Mountains. A 20-mile stretch of Interstate 5 near Chehalis in southwestern Washington was also closed Wednesday evening.

Wildfires trigger evacuations near Boulder, Colo.

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Wind-driven wildfires swept across Boulder County grasslands Wednesday, destroying at least four structures and prompting mandatory evacuations of at least 500 homes.

Residents were ordered to leave more than 500 homes on the north side of Boulder, county spokeswoman Barbara Halpin said. At least one other neighborhood north of the city was evacuated, but the number of homes wasn't immediately known.

Sheriff's Cmdr. Phil West said two firefighters suffered minor injuries.

The Red Cross said at least 100 people went to one emergency shelter. Authorities said more than 11,000 homes had been alerted to the fire by reverse-911 calls, but not all of those households were told to leave.

"At this point we don't anticipate rescinding the evacuation order until sometime tomorrow morning," West told KDVR-TV. "There's still too many hot spots, too many places where the fire could flare up again if the wind changes."

The fires started in parched, rolling grasslands dotted with subdivisions, individual homes and horse ranches about 25 miles northwest of Denver.

Authorities said at least three of the destroyed structures were homes, and the fourth was either a barn or a home.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-Buffalo Bill, HUD secretary Kemp has cancer

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Jack Kemp, the former housing secretary, congressman and Buffalo Bills quarterback, has been diagnosed with cancer, his office said Wednesday. A statement issued in Washington said Kemp was undergoing tests to assess the origin of the disease and the treatment. The statement did not disclose the type of cancer. Kemp, 73, said he would continue to serve as chairman of his Washington-based Kemp Partners consulting firm and would remain involved in charitable and political work. After his football career, Kemp represented western New York for nine terms in Congress. He ran unsuccessfully for president bid in 1988, then later was President George H.W. Bush's housing secretary and ran for vice president as Bob Dole's running mate. Dole said Wednesday that Kemp is "a tough guy of deep faith, and his multitudes of friends are praying for the best."

Fatal Calif. train station shooting sparks anger

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Protests over the fatal shooting of an unarmed man by a Bay Area Rapid Transit police officer turned violent Wednesday night, with windows broken, streets shut down and train stations closed. Hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Oakland to condemn the shooting and call for criminal charges against 27-year-old officer Johannes Mehserle. Mehserle resigned from the transit agency shortly before he was supposed to be interviewed by investigators Wednesday. Mehserle is accused of shooting 22-year-old Oscar Grant of Hayward, who was lying face-down on the station platform when he was shot and killed early New Year's Day. Mehserle was one of several officers responding to reports about groups of men fighting on a train.

Chicago fire kills 3 children; 1 sibling rescued

CHICAGO (AP)—Firefighters say they have found three young siblings dead in an apartment building that caught fire on Chicago's southeast side. Fire Department spokeswoman Eve Rodriguez says the bodies of 7-month-old Jimmy Gates, 2-year-old Tyrell Gates and 3-year-old Sharell Gates were found Wednesday on the top floor of a three-story building. Officials were investigating possible causes, including the misuse of a space heater. A 4-year-old boy found on the second floor was hospitalized in serious condition. Rodriguez says the mother of the children was outside the building when firefighters arrived. Neighbors say they heard the children screaming but couldn't reach them because of the heavy smoke.

Wash. teen charged with drowning newborn in toilet

PORT ANGELES, Wash. (AP)—A 16-year-old girl suspected of drowning an infant boy in a toilet and throwing the body in the trash was charged with murder Wednesday. Lauryn Louise Last, of Port Angeles, was charged as an adult with first-degree murder in the death of the infant believed to be her son. Last remained jailed in lieu of $500,000 bail with arraignment scheduled Friday. She faces up to life in prison if convicted. Last's attorney, Suzanne Hayden of the Clallam County public defender's office, did not immediately return a phone call Wednesday. The baby's body was found Monday by authorities combing 60 tons of trash at a dump site near Tacoma. An affidavit filed that day said Last "put her baby face down into a toilet and allowed it to drown for several minutes until it died. Then she threw her son into the trash can outside in a plastic garbage bag."

Asia

Handlers on phone ordered the Mumbai gunmen to kill

NEW DELHI (AP)—"Keep your phone switched on," a handler instructs a gunman by phone in the midst of the Mumbai siege, "so that we can hear the gunfire."

The ruthless commands come from a transcript of phone calls Indian authorities say they intercepted during the attacks in November. India says the men issuing orders, reprimands and encouragement to the young gunmen were Pakistani-based militants directing the attacks by mobile phone.

The men on the phone were confident, direct—and brutal.

"We have three foreigners, including women," a gunman said into the phone from the Oberoi Hotel where hostages had been captured.

"Kill them," replied the handler. Gunshots then rang out, followed by cheering that could be heard over the phone.

"Inflict the maximum damage," they said.

■ ■ ■

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan fired the national security adviser hours after Indian media quoted him as saying the surviving Mumbai attacker was Pakistani, a sign of strain on the weak civilian administration as it tries to respond to heated Indian allegations over the deadly assault.

Mahmood Ali Durrani was fired Wednesday because "he gave media interviews on national security issues without consulting the prime minister," said Imran Gardaizi, spokesman for Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

The decision was an odd turn of events because other Pakistani officials, including the information minister, confirmed Mohammed Ajmal Kasab's nationality the same day to domestic and international media outlets.

■ ■ ■

The transcripts were part of a dossier of evidence India has given Pakistan this week that India says definitively proves that the siege that killed 164 people was launched from across the border. India says the 10 gunmen were all Pakistani and has blamed the Pakistani-based militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba.

AP

In this Nov. 28, 2008 file photo, National Security Guard commandos come down a rope to reach the top of Nariman House, a location under siege by suspected militants in Mumbai, India.

The Mumbai transcripts were translated from Punjabi into English by Indian authorities and obtained by the newspaper The Hindu. The newspaper gave the transcripts to The Associated Press on Wednesday.

They show that the 10 gunmen, who allegedly were trained in Lashkar camps, received instructions throughout the siege.

Robust US-RP anti-terror ties to remain under Obama

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Washington's robust anti-terror alliance with the Philippines, including the presence of U.S. troops in the southern Mindanao region, will almost certainly remain under Barack Obama's incoming administration, the Philippine defense chief said Wednesday.

Both countries continue to benefit from counterterrorism cooperation and there has been no sign that either wants to change the security pacts that have bound them for decades, Teodoro said.

"The strategic policy interests remain the same whether it is President-elect Obama or President Bush," Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro told a news conference.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, a staunch backer of Washington's campaign against terrorism, allowed U.S. troops into Mindanao in 2002 to help arm and train underfunded Filipino soldiers battling al-Qaida-linked groups like the Abu Sayyaf and Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US: Troops kill 32 insurgents in east Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S.-led forces raided a Taliban bomb-making cell in eastern Afghanistan, killing 32 insurgents in a battle with scores of armed militants who shot at them from rooftops and alleyways, the military said Wednesday. The firefight broke out Tuesday in Laghman province when as many as 75 armed militants converged on the troops, who were searching a number of compounds in the area, the military said in a statement. The 32 insurgents were killed when coalition troops returned fire. The troops destroyed two caches of weapons and roadside bomb-making materials that were too unstable to move to another location, the statement said. The firefight came ahead of an expected influx of 20,000 American troops into Afghanistan to combat a Taliban insurgency that has sent violence skyrocketing in the last two years.

Gu Gu strikes again! Panda attacks at Beijing Zoo

BEIJING (AP)—Gu Gu the panda has struck again, mauling someone who jumped a barrier to retrieve a child's toy, in his third attack on a visitor at the Beijing zoo. A tourist from China's Anhui province went over a 4-foot, 7-inch (1.4-meter) barrier surrounding the panda's outdoor exercise area Wednesday to retrieve a toy dropped by his 5-year-old son, said a zoo spokeswoman surnamed Gong. The 240-pound (110-kilogram) Gu Gu bit the intruder's legs and refused to let go until zookeepers pried his jaws open with tools, said Gong, who would not give her full name as is common among Chinese officials. The Beijing News identified the man as Zhang Jiao, and quoted tourists as saying Zhang appeared to first look around to check if there were pandas nearby before jumping the barrier.

World

Gaza fighting rages despite UN, intl cease-fire proposal

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel resumed its Gaza offensive Wednesday, bombing heavily around suspected smuggling tunnels near the border with Egypt after a three-hour lull to allow in humanitarian aid. Hamas responded with a rocket barrage.

Despite the heavy fighting, strides were made on the diplomatic front with the U.S. throwing its weight behind a deal being brokered by France and Egypt.

While the Security Council failed to reach agreement on a cease-fire resolution, Egypt's U.N. Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz said representatives of Israel, the Palestinians and Hamas have agreed to meet in Cairo Thursday for talks brokered by Egypt.

Israeli airstrikes killed 29 Palestinians on Wednesday after leaflets were dropped warning residents to leave the area "because Hamas uses your houses to hide and smuggle military weapons."

The casualties brought the total Palestinian death toll during Israel's 12-day assault to 688 and drove home the complexities of finding a diplomatic endgame for Israel's Gaza invasion. Ten Israelis have been killed, including three civilians, since the offensive began Dec. 27.

More than 5,000 people have fled the border area, seeking refuge at two U.N. schools turned into temporary shelters.

The fury of the renewed fighting made it appear each side was scrambling to get in as many hits as possible before a truce could materialize.

"I feel like the ground is shaking when we hear the shelling. People are terrified," said Fida Kishta, a resident of the Gaza-Egypt border area where Israeli planes destroyed 16 empty houses.

US supports Egyptian-French initiative on Gaza

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.S. threw its weight behind an Egyptian-French cease-fire initiative for Gaza on Wednesday as diplomats discussed possible U.N. Security Council action on the crisis.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who was at U.N. headquarters for the council's emergency session on Gaza, said she had talked with both the Israelis and Arab envoys about "the importance of moving that initiative forward."

Israel's government said earlier that it viewed the proposal positively but stopped short of acceptance. A Hamas official said the Islamic militant group, which rules Gaza, was not ready to either accept or reject the plan, which he claimed favored Israel.

In Paris, French President Nicolas Sarkozy said the Palestinian Authority supported the effort, but the administration of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has no sway in Gaza. Sarkozy did not mention Hamas, which violently seized control of the territory in June 2007.

Iraqi cleric urges attacks on US troops over Gaza

BAGHDAD (AP)—Anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on Wednesday urged reprisals against American forces in Iraq to protest Israel's Gaza offensive, as Arab anger grows over civilian deaths in the Palestinian territory.

The strongly worded statement signaled a threat by al-Sadr's militia fighters to renew violence against American troops after months of relative calm.

It was unclear, however, just how much influence the once-powerful Shiite leader—who is believed to be in Iran—still has. His fighters have been hit hard in U.S.-Iraqi military operations over the past year.

The U.S. State Department dismissed al-Sadr's calls, describing them as "outrageous."

"Any call for attacks against Americans is outrageous and, frankly, not worthy of much more comment," deputy State Department spokesman Robert Wood told reporters. "Outside calls to attack Americans for what's going on in the region are outrageous."

WORLD BRIEFS

US General: Anbar lacks support of Iraq government

BAGHDAD (AP)—The top American commander in the former insurgent stronghold of Anbar said Wednesday the Shiite-led government should have poured reconstruction money into the Sunni region after Sunni fighters joined forces with U.S. troops to chase al-Qaida out of the western province. Marine Maj. Gen. John F. Kelly told The Associated Press that his greatest "mission failure" was his inability to bring together the government in Baghdad and the Sunnis in Anbar to take advantage of the steep decline in violence. "What the Iraqi government in Baghdad should have done is said Anbar is getting peaceful, let's commit," Kelly told the AP in a telephone interview from his headquarters southwest of Baghdad, as he begins to make preparations to hand over command of 23,000 Marines next month to Maj. Gen. Richard T. Tyron. "It drives me to distraction," he said. "I would count it as a mission failure."

12 deaths blamed on snow and cold across Europe

MILAN, Italy (AP)—Freezing temperatures and exceptional snowfall caused travel delays Wednesday across Europe and were blamed for at least 12 deaths, including that of a man in Milan who was crushed when a canopy collapsed under the weight of snow. In Poland, the Interior Ministry said at least 10 people have frozen to death due to temperatures reaching minus 13 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 25 Celsius). Italian police said a Milan businessman standing on his balcony was killed when the snow brought down a canopy and part of a wall. A 47-year-old Serbian was found frozen to death in his home in the town of Zagarolo, east of Rome. The winter weather temporarily closed Milan's two airports, halted trains in the normally sunny south of France and pressed into service ice breakers in the Dutch port of Rotterdam. But it also sent Dutch skaters storming onto canals, and earned chimpanzees in Rome's zoo hot tea and cookies for extra calories.

Gulp! Mexico tells citizens to swallow their gum

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The country that gave the world chewing gum is getting gummed up: The average square yard (meter) of Mexico City sidewalk has 70 blobs of discarded chew. Now Mexico is responding with innovations ranging from expensive sidewalk steam-cleaners to natural chewing gum that breaks down quickly. It's even telling its citizens (gulp!) to swallow their gum. The general in the war on discarded chewing gum is Ricardo Jaral, Mexico City's director for conservation of public spaces. He bemoans the blackened gobs that mar the newly restored 700-year-old downtown area, whose rough, porous paving stones serve as stubborn gum traps. Jaral has purchased 10 German-designed machines that treat sidewalks with steam and chemicals, and plans a large-scale cleanup starting Feb. 1. He is also looking to launch a public-awareness campaign.

Off The Wall

Human-sized heart found at the Paw Paw car wash

PAW PAW, Mich. (AP)—A human-sized heart found at a southwestern Michigan car wash has investigators wondering whether it came from a person or an animal. The organ was discovered in a corner of a manual wash bay at Soapy's Car Wash, Paw Paw police said. The owner of the business found it Monday on the floor of the bay, according to WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids and WWMT-TV in Kalamazoo.

Police first took the heart to an animal clinic, where a veterinarian was unable to determine its origin. The next stop was a local cardiologist, who said while it was "consistent in size to a human heart," he could not make a conclusive determination as to its source, said police Chief Patrick W. Alspaugh.

The chief took the organ Tuesday to Lansing's Sparrow Hospital, where forensic scientists were to examine it.

"If it's a human heart, that prompts the question, 'Then where's the body?'" Alspaugh told the Kalamazoo Gazette.

He said he didn't know when the forensic scientists will give him their findings.

If it turns out that the heart came from an animal, it would not be the first time that someone has left animal parts at the car wash

The owner told police that animal parts had been left before at the car wash, but never a heart.

FBI: Man allegedly threatened to bomb L.A.-bound jetliner

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A man who allegedly claimed to have a bomb aboard a jetliner and lunged for a door after it landed in Los Angeles was tackled by other passengers and held for questioning Wednesday, authorities said.

Delta Air Lines Flight 110 from Atlanta was only minutes from landing at Los Angeles International Airport shortly before 10:30 a.m. when the man "jumped up and started running ... (and) yelled 'I've got a bomb,'" passenger Bruce Worrilow told Fox 11 News.

The plane touched down a minute or two later and as it rolled toward the terminal, the man "lunged for an exit door and also assaulted a passenger," prompting passengers and the flight crew to bind him with plastic ties, said FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller.

"He did not have a bomb on his person," but his bags and the airplane were searched, Eimiller said.

FBI agents and airport police took the man into custody. He was being questioned but had not been arrested by midafternoon.

The motive for the alleged threat was not immediately clear, Eimiller said.

None of the 271 passengers aboard the aircraft were hurt and no other flights were disrupted, said Delta spokeswoman Betsy Talton.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Seal turns hatchery into all-you-can-eat buffet

SANDWICH, Mass. (AP)—Life is a big buffet for a young seal with a talent for breaking and entering. A young harbor seal somehow broke into a fish hatchery on Cape Cod on Tuesday and turned the place into an all-you-can-eat buffet. The female seal briefly had the run of the Sandwich Hatchery, downing untold numbers of trout before Division of Fisheries and Wildlife employees found it, the Cape Cod Times reported. The seal, just under 3 feet long, was released on a beach by members of the Cape Cod Stranding Network, which rescues marine mammals that end up on land. The seal looked healthy and "pretty full," said network spokeswoman Katie Touhey.

Weighty load: Police say man steals $800 in change

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—The payload was hefty—and the payback painful. Police say a robber broke a window at a Salt Lake City home and made off with a paint bucket full of $800 in change. Officers soon stopped a 48-year-old man holding a bucket of coins and carrying a crowbar in his pants. He was charged Tuesday with several misdemeanors.

Angry smoker accused of burning 'no smoking' sign

MEDFORD, Ore. (AP)—Medford police said a man set a "No Smoking" sign on fire after being told he could not light up inside a nightclub. The man was charged with reckless burning and disorderly conduct. The Web site for the Jackson County Jail said the 44-year-old remains behind bars on $6,000 bail. Detective Sgt. Mike Budreau said witnesses told officers that the man tried to smoke inside The Office nightclub early Tuesday, but was told he couldn't because of Oregon's new anti-smoking law. He became argumentative, then went into the club's bathroom and started to smoke. A bouncer went in to stop him and the man allegedly responded by holding his lighter to the paper sign. Budreau said the fire destroyed the sign, but did little other damage.

Police: Woman tries to firebomb neighbor's house

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Police said a feud among neighbors escalated when a Memphis woman lobbed flaming bottles of gasoline onto a neighbor's house. The woman was being held on $5,000 bond on a charge of aggravated arson after her arrest Tuesday. Investigators said the woman was angry because she thought her neighbor cut her tires. Police found two bottles with gasoline on the roof of the home and another nearby. The neighbor said a relative climbed onto the roof to douse the flames.

NY man demands estranged wife pay him for kidney

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP)—A New York doctor is demanding that his estranged wife pay him $1.5 million to compensate him for the kidney he gave her while they were still on good terms. Dr. Richard Batista spoke Wednesday to reporters at his lawyer's office in Garden City, Long Island. He said he gave his kidney to Dawnell Batista in June 2001. She filed for divorce in July 2005. The 49-year-old Batista works for Nassau University Medical Center. The couple have three children, ages, 8, 11 and 14. A message left for his wife's attorney, Douglas Rothkopf, was not immediately returned.

Death and Funeral Announcement

†Faustina Taimanao Sablan

lovingly known as "Tinang" was called to her eternal rest on January 03, 2009.

PREDECEASED BY:

Parents	:	Leonardo M. Taimanao Maria Ch. Taimanao
Sister's	:	Rufina T. Ogo Maria T.Mereb
Parents – In – Law	:	Bonifacio R. Sablan Maria M. Sablan
Sister – In – Law	:	Felisa S. Pangelinan
Brothers – In – Law	:	Donicio M. Ogo Jose R. Ayuyu
God Parents	:	Manuel Apatang Izang Manglona
Niece	:	Vanessa P. Sablan
Nephew	:	John Bonny S. Ogo

SURVIVED BY:

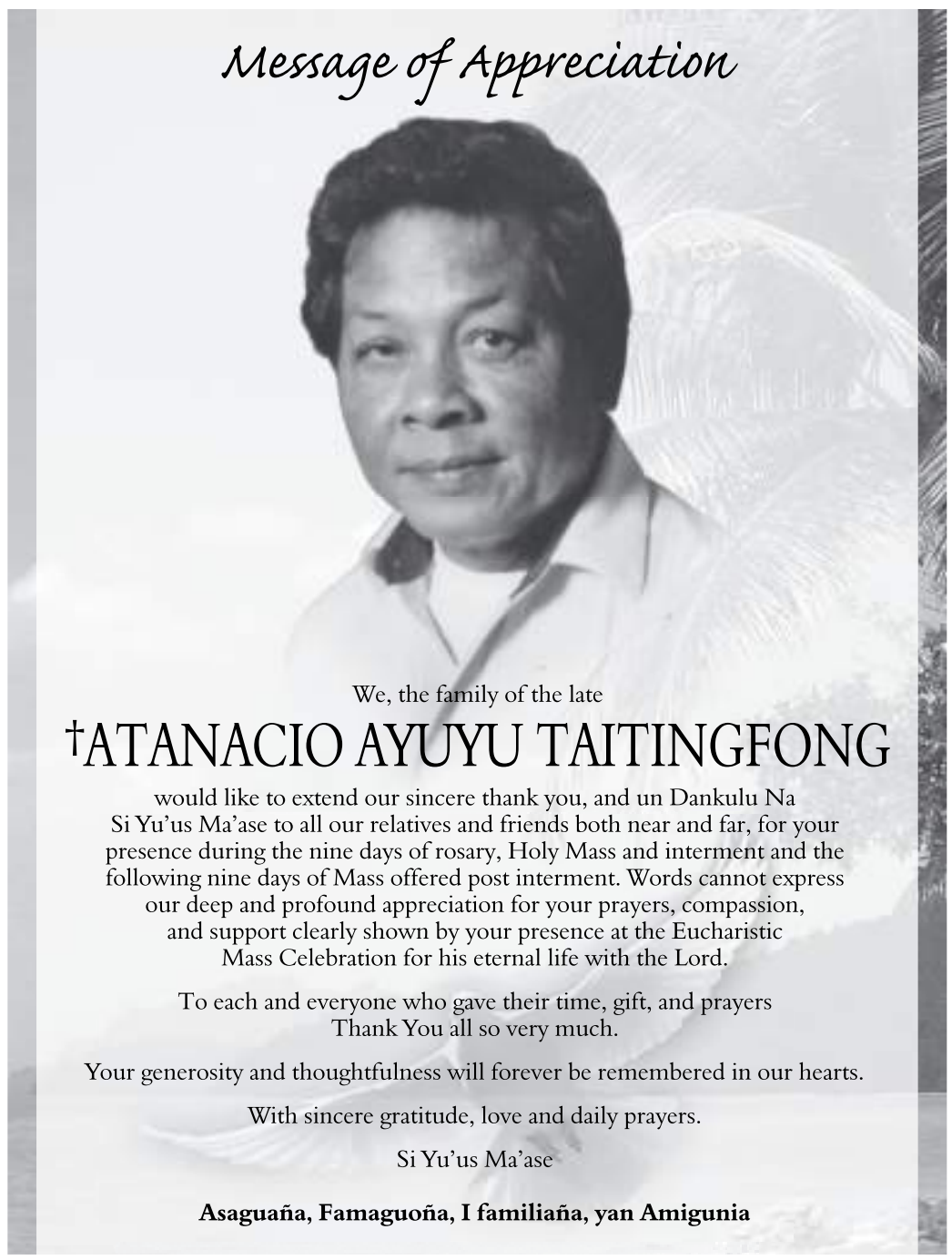
Husband	:	Ramon M. Sablan
Childrens/Spouses (Kids)	:	Ray T. Sablan & Lucy Ann M. Santos (Ray Jr., Ray, CJ & Eliza Maria) Francisco & Janella T. Sablan (Meagan & Brady) Tina S. & Vincent L. Mesngon Andrea T. Sablan & Joaquin T. Fujihira (Lisalynn, Joaquin Jr., Mary Christine, Tionica, Angel Ray & Klowee)
Reared Children/Spouse (Kids)	:	Leobernard & Joanne Semana Aquilino Jr. & Cindy Semana (Joshua, Meagan & Marika)
Sisters & Brothers	:	Consolacion T. & Nicolas Calvo, Lucia T. Ayuyu, Pilar T. & Peter Johnson, Ramona Ch. Taimanao, Vicente Ch. Taimanao.
Brothers, Sisters – In – Law	:	Vicente M. Sablan, Luis & Winniefreda Sablan, Jose Sablan & Nora Vale Cruz, Martin & Maria Sablan, Jose Ch. Pangelinan, Julita M. Sablan, Antonia S. Benavente, Rosita & Ricardo S. Atalig, Emilia M. & Francisco M. Barcinas, Ramona S. & Isaac M. Calvo Jr.
God Children's	:	Elizabeth Kani, Barbara Camacho, Loling Masga, Leobernard Semana, Brandean Ogo, John A. King.

Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews & cousins.

Nightly Mass is offered at 7:00 p.m. & followed by the Rosary at 8:00 p.m. at San Isidro/Saina Ina Church at Sinapalu I, Rota. Last respect will be on Monday, January 12, 2009, Rota at San Francisco De Borja Church, Songsong Village from 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will follow immediately at 10:00 a.m. Interment services will follow at the San Jose Cemetery, Rota.

Un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase' ginen as: Ramon M. Sablan yan I familia.

Message of Appreciation



We, the family of the late

†ATANACIO AYUYU TAITINGFONG

would like to extend our sincere thank you, and un Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase to all our relatives and friends both near and far, for your presence during the nine days of rosary, Holy Mass and interment and the following nine days of Mass offered post interment. Words cannot express our deep and profound appreciation for your prayers, compassion, and support clearly shown by your presence at the Eucharistic Mass Celebration for his eternal life with the Lord.

To each and everyone who gave their time, gift, and prayers
Thank You all so very much.

Your generosity and thoughtfulness will forever be remembered in our hearts.

With sincere gratitude, love and daily prayers.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Asaguaña, Famaguoña, I familiaña, yan Amigunia

Science & Technology

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. What are my options for disposing of an old computer?

A. Letting the old PC collect dust in a closet, basement or attic can be easy, but it deserves a better fate.

First, you need to wipe your data from the hard drive. In Windows, use the free Eraser (heidi.ie/eraser) to nuke the C: drive's "Documents and Settings" folder (aside from a few system files).

In Mac OS X 10.3 or newer, drag the contents of your home folder to the Trash, hit the Finder menu and select "Secure Empty Trash ... " In OS X 10.1 or 10.2, download the free Permanent Eraser (edenwaith.com) instead.

If you'll sell or donate the machine, reload its original software. On most PCs, you do this by starting the computer off a special hard-drive partition; check the manual for instructions. On a Mac, boot from the system CD or DVD and select an "Erase and Install" option.

If you can't sell the computer or give it away through a site like Freecycle (freecycle.org), donate it to a charity. You have a wide variety of choices, from local computer groups to larger nonprofit organizations such as the National Cristina Foundation (cristina.org).

Computers too old for further use should not be thrown out because they contain toxic chemicals. Vendors such as Apple (apple.com/environment) and Dell (dell.com/recycle) will recycle old hardware for free when you buy a new computer from them. You can drop off computers for recycling at a Staples store, though a $10 fee applies.

Once a month, Chantilly, Va.-based PC Recycler (pcrecycler.net) recycles old PCs for free; for $10, it will destructively erase a machine's hard drive.

For other reuse and recycling options, see the Consumer Electronics Association's myGreenElectronics (mygreenelectronics.org).

■ ■ ■ ■

Q. Years ago, I bought an "HD-ready" television that did not include a digital-TV tuner. Now I would like to get the over-the-air high-def channels. Can I add that capability to my set?

A. The obvious, but wrong, remedy would be a cheap digital-TV converter box. That will only yield a standard-definition picture.

The second-most-obvious option would be to plug in a DVD recorder with a digital tuner. Unfortunately, current models convert high-def broadcasts to standard definition to allow them to be recorded to disc. When plugged into a high-definition TV, they will "upconvert" that standard-def feed back to HD resolution, but you'll lose details in the process—and on a big screen, you'll probably notice the difference.

Instead, look for a standalone HDTV tuner. These can be hard to find in stores but should be easy to pick up online. For example, the Amazon and Best Buy Web sites list a $180 Samsung model.

You also could spend a little more for a tuner-equipped digital video recorder, such as TiVo's TiVo HD ($300 plus service fees of $13 a month or less, depending on how much you prepay) or Dish Network's new DTVPal Plus DVR ($250, no service fee).

■ ■ ■ ■

Q. How can I get my BlackBerry to lock its keyboard automatically when I'm not using it?

A. Try a free program called AutoLock. Visit geekandproud.net/blackberry-software on your BlackBerry and select the first "OTA Install" link to set up this program. You also may be asked to grant AutoLock access to your phone after installing it or the first time it runs.

On a BlackBerry Bold and Storm, this program worked as advertised, securing the Bold's keyboard and the Storm's screen and buttons after about 30 seconds of inactivity.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q. In the Windows Vista computer at home, there's a folder that shows all recently changed files. We have people visiting frequently, and we don't want it to be too easy for them to see our documents, pictures and so on.

A. This folder, one of a handful that Vista parks in the "Favorite Links" sidebar of a desktop window, is easy to remove: drag it to the Recycle Bin.

You also can open the Links folder in your user directory (the one with your Documents, Music and Pictures folders) to delete more than one folder at once. To add a folder to this list, drag it to that folder or the sidebar and Vista will create a shortcut for you.

You might think all this would be obvious—except that in Windows XP, the sidebar showing common tasks and "Other Places" doesn't allow simple editing. So an XP veteran could be forgiven for thinking that Vista's sidebar, which takes up the same spot in a window, is no more flexible.

To get back to the original question: People who would poke around your computer to look for interesting files also might like to rifle though the silverware and look through your mail. Maybe you shouldn't invite them over.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q. How can I stop iPhoto from opening every time I sync my iPhone with my Mac? I don't use the camera on the phone all that much.

A. The only fix is to tell iPhoto not to open when a camera is plugged into the Mac—not only an iPhone, but any camera. In iPhoto's Preferences window, change the "Connecting camera opens" menu from "iPhoto" to "No application."

Assuming you plug in your iPhone more often than your camera, this may not be too bad. You'll just need to remember to launch iPhoto on your own when you want to import photos; once it's up and running, it will see the camera and offer to grab your pictures.

SlotPhones combine a headset with a MP3 player

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A new model of headphones can play MP3s themselves, without connecting to a separate device.

Hauppauge, N.Y.-based Adrenaline Technologies LLC is releasing SlotPhones, a pair of wraparound Bluetooth headphones that work as a standalone MP3 player if you insert a song-filled microSD memory card into a tiny slot on the side. The product also serves as a stereo Bluetooth headset that can receive calls and music from your cell phone.

Adrenaline Technologies showed the lightweight, collapsible gadget this week at the International Consumer Electronics Show, and expects it to be available in the second quarter for about $130.

The SlotPhones name echoes that of the recently released slotMusic format supported by SanDisk Corp., four major record labels and retailers Best Buy Co. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. SlotMusic comes on 1-gigabyte microSD cards loaded with music free of copy protections. Some full-length albums are being sold in this format—and now they can be played on SlotPhones.

Apple's Jobs takes $1 salary, but holdings suffer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—As he's done for the last decade, Apple Inc. Chief Executive Steve Jobs took home his customary $1 annual salary in 2008, but the economic meltdown and Apple's falling stock price whacked half a billion dollars off the value of his personal holdings in the company.

Apple said in a regulatory filing Wednesday that Jobs, 53, who holds 5.5 million shares of Apple's stock, hasn't sold any of the shares since rejoining the company in 1997. That means what he lacks in annual compensation is made up for in the enormous amount of stock he already holds—a horde that took a beating in 2008 amid fears about the Mac and iPhone maker's vulnerability to the U.S. recession.

Apple shares have lost more than half their value since the end of 2007, when they were trading at nearly $200 and Jobs' holdings were worth more than $1 billion.

In Celebration of His New Life

Junior Aikichy Lepwach

"Jun"

July 18, 1974 – January 4, 2009

Survived by his:

Wife: Julita L. Lepwach

Children: Jackeline Marie Lepwach
Tina Tricia Lepwach
Dioniso Junior Lepwach
Stiven Hain Lepwach

Mother: Emele A Lepwach

Father: Aikichy Stiven Lepwach

On Saturday, January 10, 2009, Prayer Service will begin at 10:00am at Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center. Memorial Service will be at 1:00pm and immediately followed by internment services at Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank you for your prayers.

Julita Ledesma Lepwach and Children
Aikichy & Emele Lepwach

Life & Style

‘Dark Knight’ sweeps People’s Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Holy, People’s Choice Awards, Batman! “The Dark Knight” soared away with every trophy it was nominated for Wednesday at the 35th annual fan-favorite CBS ceremony. The caped crusader flick won five awards, including favorite cast, superhero, action movie and on-screen matchup for Christian Bale’s Batman and the late Heath Ledger’s Joker.

“On behalf of all of the cast from the movie, thank you very much to the fans,” said Bale. “Here’s to Heath.”

The CBS ceremony was hosted by Queen Latifah and returned to the Shrine Auditorium for its typical star-studded live show format, following last year’s writer’s strike-friendly, pre-taped program. Stars such as Adam Sandler, Kate Hudson, Robin Williams, Hugh Laurie and Reese Witherspoon showed up to accept their awards at the slightly subdued ceremony.

“It’s such a great way to start the new year,” Witherspoon, the “Four Christmases” star who won an Oscar in 2005 for portaying June Carter Cash in “Walk the Line,” said as she accepted her award for favorite female movie star. “A couple years ago, I won a great award for singing in a movie. This year, I won an award for having a baby throw up on me.”

Other recipients selected by Internet voters in categories spanning movies, television and music included “Dancing With the Stars” as favorite reality show, Carrie Underwood as favorite female singer, “House” as favorite TV drama, Brad Pitt as favorite leading man, Angelina Jolie as favorite female action star and Ellen DeGeneres as favorite talk show host.

“I wish I could share this with you,” DeGeneres told the audience while clutching her trophy on stage. “I could throw it on the ground and smash it into a million pieces, and give each one of you a little piece of it, but that’s violent, and that’s probably why you voted for me, because I’m not violent.”

Queen Latifah accepted the favorite drama and independent movie awards alongside her “The Secret Life of Bees” co-star Dakota Fanning. The overly enthusiastic host opened the show by wading through the audience and asking celebrities if they could keep entertaining the masses in 2009. All mimicked President-elect Barack Obama and by answering: “Yes we can.”

From left, Charlie Sheen, Jon Cryer, Angus T. Jones and Holland Taylor pose for a picture backstage with their favorite TV comedy award for “Two and a Half Men” at the 35th Annual People’s Choice Awards on Wednesday Jan. 7, 2009 in Los Angeles.

AP

WINNERS LIST

A complete list of winners at the 35th annual People’s Choice Awards:

- Movie: “The Dark Knight”
- Family movie: “WALL-E”
- Action movie: “The Dark Knight”
- Comedy movie: “27 Dresses”
- Drama movie: “The Secret Life of Bees”
- Independent movie: “The Secret Life of Bees”
- Favorite cast: “The Dark Knight”
- Male movie star: Will Smith
- Leading man: Brad Pitt
- Male action star: Will Smith
- Female movie star: Reese Witherspoon
- Leading lady: Kate Hudson
- Female action star: Angelina Jolie
- On-screen matchup: Christian Bale and Heath Ledger, “The Dark Knight”
- Superhero: Christian Bale as Batman, “The Dark Knight”
- TV drama: “House”
- TV comedy: “Two and a Half Men”
- TV animated comedy: “The Simpsons”
- Sci-fi/fantasy show: “Heroes”
- Reality show: “Dancing With the Stars”
- Game show: “Deal or No Deal”
- Male TV star: Hugh Laurie
- Female TV star: Christina Applegate
- Talk show host: Ellen DeGeneres
- Scene-stealing guest star: Robin Williams, “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit”
- TV drama diva: Kyra Sedgwick as Brenda Johnson, “The Closer”
- New TV comedy: “Gary Unmarried”
- New TV drama: “The Mentalist”
- Male singer: Chris Brown
- Female singer: Carrie Underwood
- Group: Rascal Flatts
- R&B song: Alicia Keys, “No One”
- Pop song: Katy Perry, “I Kissed a Girl”
- Rock song: Kid Rock, “All Summer Long”
- Country song: Carrie Underwood, “Last Name”
- Hip-hop song: Flo Rida featuring T-Pain, “Low”
- Combined forces: Jordin Sparks featuring Chris Brown, “No Air”
- Song from a soundtrack: “Mamma Mia” from “Mamma Mia!”
- Funny male star: Adam Sandler
- Funny female star: Tina Fey
- Star under 35: Carrie Underwood
- Online sensation: “Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog”
- User-generated video: “Barack Roll”

DeGeneres wins at People’s Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres and “Dancing with the Stars” were early winners at the People’s Choice Awards.

“I wish I could share this with you,” DeGeneres told the audience while clutching her trophy for favorite talk show host. “I could throw it on the ground and smash it into a million pieces, and give each one of you a little piece of it, but that’s violent, and that’s probably why you voted for me, because I’m not violent.”

Other winners selected by Internet voters in categories spanning movies, television and music included “Dancing With the Stars” as favorite reality show, Chris Brown as favorite male singer and “American Idol” winner Carrie Underwood as favorite female singer, star under 35 and country song for “Last Name.”

AP

Ellen DeGeneres accepts the favorite talk show host award at the 35th Annual People’s Choice Awards on Wednesday Jan. 7, 2009 in Los Angeles.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

†Susana Sablan Camacho Villagomez

wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and all considerate acts of grace did much to calm the ache in our hearts and may time lessen our pains as memories gently turn tears to joy. We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us, your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you. May God bless us all.

Mansen magof ham in ekstende un sinseru yan dangkulu na si Yu’us Ma’ase para I familia yan manatungo’ siha pot I tinayuyot yan finatton miyu gi duranten I pi-niten mami. Todu I tiempo bai in hahasso hamyo gi tinayuyot-mami ni familian I difunta as †Susana (Chana Juan Kiyu).

Dangkulo na Si Yu’us Ma’ase’

GINEN I FAMILIA

This playboy's first love? Movies

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—"You've caught me with my pants on," Hugh Hefner said with a sad smirk. There are days (or entire decades) when Hefner greets the midday sun in silk pajamas and a robe, but on this particular December afternoon, well, the playboy just wasn't in the mood.

Hefner had arrived back at his 29-room mansion after attending the funeral of Bettie Page, the pin-up queen, and he was still wearing his mourner's jacket as he sat and sipped from a bottle of Diet Pepsi in the hush of a downstairs library. Hefner considered Page a friend and fellow pioneer of sorts on the old frontier of American sex culture. Now, like so many others in Hefner's long journey, she is gone.

"We knew it was coming, and there comes a point in the illness. ..." His voice trailed off and then, adjusting his gold bunny cuff links, he smiled. "We're not really talking about Bettie Page here today."

No, but the legacy of desire—as well as the desire for legacy—are core concerns for Hefner these days. He has arguably never been more famous, but the glossy centerfold citadel of his empire, Playboy magazine, has struggled, and Hefner, 82, seems most at ease talking about the past and his consuming passion—no, not that one. According to Hef, Hollywood was his first true obsession.

"Everything I learned about love, I learned from the movies," Hefner said. "The reality is because I was not shown affection, I escaped into an alternate universe, and it came right out of the movies. Love for me is defined almost exclusively in terms of romantic love as defined by the films of my childhood."

There's a strong chance that Hefner finally will see a version of himself as a child up on the screen; a biographical film is ramping up and, according to Hefner, production could be under way in the next few months. Brian Grazer is the producer, Robert Downey Jr. is keenly interested in the starring role and Brett Ratner has been lined up to direct. Hefner, a devotee of Billy Wilder and Preston Sturges, seemed uncertain about the "Rush Hour" auteur.

"It's going to be a very curious change of pace for him ... but I believe in Brian," Hefner said. "The one thing I would want the film to be is something other than a light comedy, to have something to say and express something about the change in social sexual values. You know, Brian made a comment that I was the only man who had made love to over a thousand women and they all still liked him. And I do take some pride, in fact, that I remain friends with the majority of former wives and girlfriends. I am a romantic."

Perhaps, but this is the graceless age of Internet porn, and Hefner's magazine has been receding. It celebrated its 55th anniversary in 2008 but, in an unfortunate coincidence, gave pink slips to 55 employees in October. If the glossy print life is stepping down, Hefner's lifelong fascination for film is moving up among his priorities. The biopic will be co-produced by Playboy's Alta Loma Entertainment, his production company, which is redoubling its efforts in Hollywood. The company was started in the '70s and, after years of making soft-core porn, was a limited partner in August's "The House Bunny," a racy but PG-13 farce that starred Anna Faris and Colin Hanks.

Alta Loma is following that with the R-rated "Miss March," a comedy about a guy who wakes up from a coma to find his girlfriend as one of Hefner's playmates. It hits 2,000 theaters in March with Fox distributing. There's also talk of a live-action version of Little Annie Fanny, the air-headed and bubble-breasted Playboy comic-strip character created for Playboy in 1962 by Mad magazine alums Harvey Kurtzman and Will Elder.

If it all sounds sophomoric, well ... Hef, like his magazine, has a penchant for flipping between cartoon lewdness and lofty parlor-room pursuits.

For decades, movie screenings have been a tradition at the Playboy mansion. Hefner used to screen two new films every week but, in the 1990s, he surrendered to the fact that the contemporary cinema output just doesn't yield 104 good movies a year. Now, Friday nights are for new films ("Frost/Nixon" and "Gran Torino" were recent selections) while Sunday nights are for the classics (he recently screened "Mrs. Miniver" and "I Was a Male War Bride"). Hefner devotes "an afternoon I really can't afford" each week to preparing notes for his introductions of the vintage fare.

On Mondays, it's Manly Night, in which the audience is smaller and older—mostly Hefner's circle of longtime pals, people like tough-guy actor Robert Culp and Ronald Borst, a leading collector of old horror film posters. In recent weeks, they have watched the old "Flash Gordon" serials, which, of course, Hefner remembers in sexual terms. "The women I have been most enamored with over the years," he says, "looked very much like Dale Arden."

The old movies stay the same, but the mansion audience doesn't.

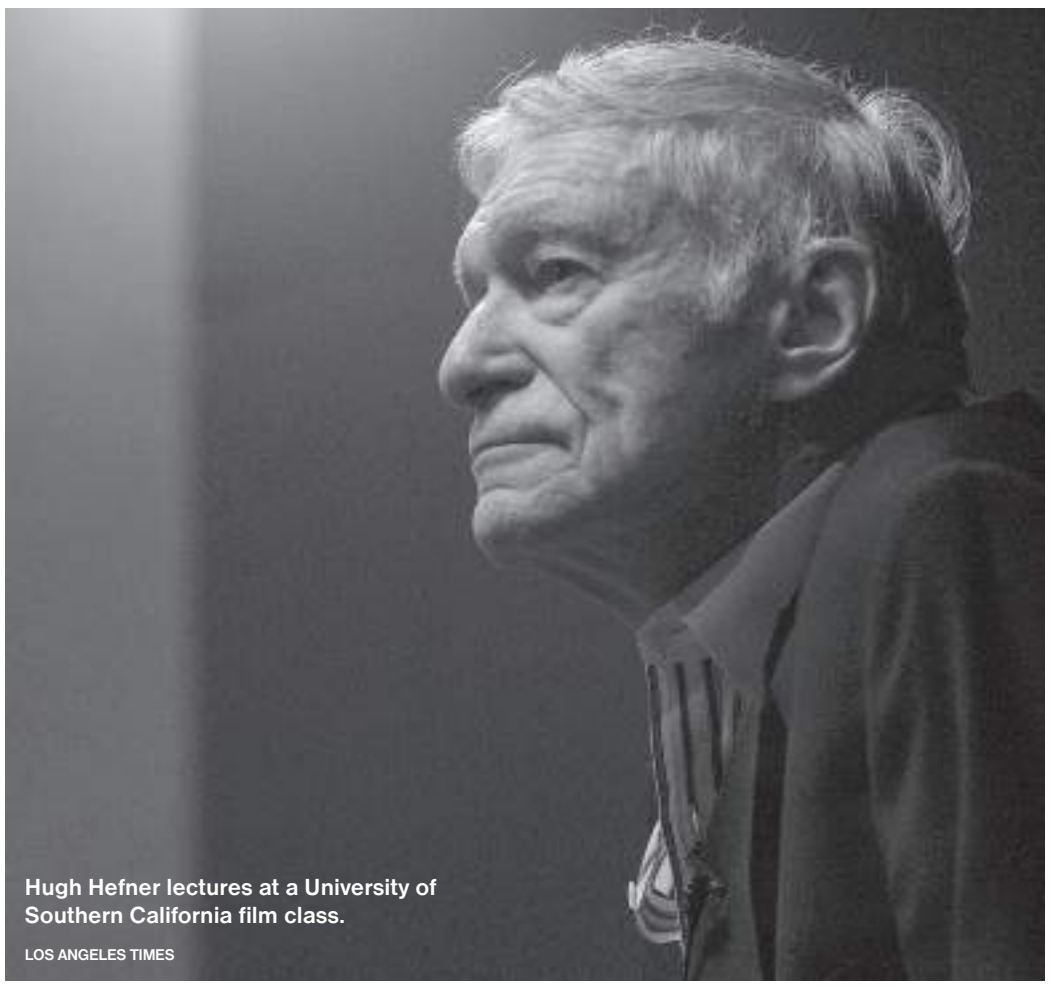
"The group changes by and large only by making new friends and having old friends die," Hefner said. "Don Adams and Mel Torme used to be part of the group. ... This literally is a second home for a great many of my friends. I think on my passing a lot of my friends are going to be lost socially."

The library shelves are dominated with books on Hollywood history, and it's surprising, perhaps, that Hefner hasn't put himself in their pages in a bigger way since moving west in 1971. Like Howard Hughes, he could have bought a spot in the dream factory, but Hefner has mostly been content with just watching.

The great exception to that was his unlikely role as a key producer for Roman Polanski's grim and gory 1971 "The Tragedy of Macbeth." A top executive at the Playboy Club in London had championed the idea of Hefner getting involved in the project, which became Polanski's first film after the 1969 murder of his pregnant wife, Sharon Tate, during the Manson family attacks.

During production, the movie was lagging behind schedule and the company that had insured the film was pushing for Polanski to be replaced.

"I told them, 'Polanski is our star; he's the reason we're making the movie,' so we gave up the insurance policy, and I covered the film myself," Hefner said. "It was a fascinating film, flawed but fascinating. It was directly related to the murders. There was a moment in which during the murder scene that he misaddressed the actress as 'Sharon.' It was such a dark and cathartic project. I only wish I had produced his next film, 'Chinatown.'"



Hugh Hefner lectures at a University of Southern California film class.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

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Unborn

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon and Tues		4:25	7:20	

Gary Oldman, Odette Yustman
Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Casey Beldon hated her mother for abandoning her as a child. But when inexplicable events begin to happen, Casey begins to understand why she left. Plagued by merciless dreams and a tortured ghost that haunts her waking hours, she must turn to the only person, Rabbi Sendak, who can make it stop. With the help of Sendak, her best friend Romy and boyfriend Mark, Casey uncovers the source of a family curse dating back to Nazi Germany—a creature with the ability to inhabit anyone or anything that is getting stronger with each possession.

Bride Wars

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon and Tues		4:15	7:30	

Kate Hudson, Anne Hathaway
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Liv and Emma are best friends who since childhood have planned every detail of their respective weddings. At the top of their bridal "must have" list: a ceremony at New York's ultimate bridal destination, the Plaza Hotel. Now, at age 26, they're both about to get married; they're about to realize their dreams; and they're about to live happily ever after. Or maybe not. When a clerical error causes a clash in wedding dates—they're now to be married on the same date!—Liv, Emma and their lifelong friendship are put to the ultimate test.

Gran Torino

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10	
Mon and Tues		4:10	7:10	

Clint Eastwood, Brian Haley
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG R

Synopsis

Walt Kowalski is a widower, grumpy, tough-minded, borderline-hateful, unhappy old man who can't get along with either his kids or his neighbors, a Korean War veteran whose prize possession is a 1973 Gran Torino he keeps in cherry condition. When his neighbor Tao, a young Hmong teenager, tries to steal his Gran Torino, Kowalski sets out to reform the youth. Drawn against his will into the life of Tao's family, Kowalski is soon taking steps to protect them from the gangs that foul their neighborhood.

★ ★ ★

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon and Tues		4:00	7:00	

Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett
Drama, Romance • Rated PG 13

Bedtime Stories

Friday		4:05	7:25	9:45
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:25	9:45
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:25	
Mon and Tues		4:05	7:25	

Adam Sandler, Keri Russell
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

Yes Man

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tues		4:20	7:05	

Jim Carrey, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Marley and Me

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tues		4:30	7:15	

Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13

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Overwhelming empathy stymies student's desire to help others

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 21-year-old man in college. I am training for a profession I will love, and I know my future will be very bright.

I would like to volunteer at a soup kitchen or do something for the poor. I have done turkey drives and food drives before, but never worked directly with the people I'm trying to help. My problem is I tend to become very sad or feel helpless when I'm around disadvantaged people. I identify too strongly with their suffering.

Abby, I want to help as many people as I can during my short time on this planet, but I'm paralyzed by their pain. Is something wrong with me? Have you any suggestions?

WANTS TO HELP IN EDEN, N.Y.

DEAR WANTS TO HELP: My grandfather used to say that a thin line separates those who have from those who don't, and it is the responsibility of those who have to reach out and do something to help the less fortunate. In your case, donating your time would be enormously helpful, and frankly, seeing you personally offering your assistance would go a long way to lifting the spirits of some needy people.

Because you are nervous about it, consider transitioning to the "front lines" by starting with food prep in the kitchen of the shelter and working your way forward as you gain more confidence. Yes, the clients are people in trouble. But they depend on the kindness of people like you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband has been joking recently about being a "closet case." There has always been somewhat of a question about that in the back of my mind. Another ingredient to throw in is the fact that he is very controlling about everything, including sex—which he withholds unless it's his idea. So, is he a closet case or is he just a controlling person?

UNSURE IN IRVING, TEXAS

DEAR UNSURE: While many a truth is spoken in jest, having never met your husband, I cannot decide for you whether or not he is gay or bisexual. He does, from your description, however, appear to be an unsatisfying life partner on at least two levels. So my question to you is, do you think you're better off with him or without him—and is this the way you plan to live the rest of your life?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I watch our 2-year-old granddaughter almost every weekend. She and her parents live about 60 miles from us.

The problem is, we agreed when we started taking her that we would meet halfway. But for reasons unknown to me, we always have to drive a lot more than halfway. I have checked the mileage and pointed it out to my daughter and son-in-law, and they ignore it.

This may seem petty, but I'm sick of it. They both work and earn more than we do. Don't you think free baby-sitting is reason enough to get your child to the baby sitter?

GRAND "MA" IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR GRAND "MA": Yes, I do. But as long as you tolerate this arrangement, it will continue. Instead of letting your daughter and son-in-law tell you where they are going to meet you, tell THEM where you will meet them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Brad Pitt says he was faithful to Jennifer Aniston

AP

In this May 13, 2004 file photo, Brad Pitt, left, arrives with his Jennifer Aniston at the screening of his film "Troy," at the 57th International Film Festival in Cannes, southern France.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brad Pitt insists he didn't cheat on Jennifer Aniston with Angelina Jolie. In a story posted on W magazine's Web site, the 45-year-old actor defends both women and says his relationship with Jolie didn't begin until after he and Aniston split in 2005.

Jolie revealed last year that she and Pitt fell in love on the set of the 2005 film "Mr. & Mrs. Smith." In November, Aniston called Jolie's comments "really uncool."

Pitt tells the magazine for its Jan. 20 issue that filming continued after he and Aniston split, and that his relationship with Jolie wasn't "some kind of dastardly affair."

"I'm very proud of the way it was handled," he says. "It was respectful."

Knowles, Keys, Hudson grab music, film Image noms

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Beyonce Knowles, Alicia Keys and Jennifer Hudson are all multitasking for the NAACP Image Awards, earning nominations Wednesday in both music and film categories.

Knowles

Knowles, Keys and Hudson are competing against one another for outstanding female music artist and for best music video. The three also are nominated for supporting film actress, Keys and Hudson for "The Secret Life of Bees" and Knowles for "Cadillac Records."

Hudson had seven nominations overall, six in music categories, while Knowles had six, five of them for music.

"Cadillac Records" and "The Secret Life of Bees" are best-picture contenders, along with "Miracle at St. Anna," "Seven Pounds" and "Tyler Perry's the Family That Preys."

"The Secret Life of Bees" leads the film side with eight nominations, followed by "Cadillac Records" with seven. "Cadillac Records" grabbed three of the five supporting-actor slots, for Cedric the Entertainer, Columbus Short and Mos Def.

Perry films earned two best-actress slots, for Alfre Woodard in "The Family That Preys" and Angela Bassett in "Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns." They are up against Dakota Fanning and Queen Latifah for "The Secret Life of Bees" and Rosario Dawson for "Seven Pounds."

Nominated for lead film actor were Derek Luke, "Miracle at St. Anna"; Don Cheadle, "Traitor"; Jeffrey Wright, "Cadillac Records"; Rob Brown, "The Express"; and Will Smith, "Seven Pounds."

Television comedy series contenders are "30 Rock," "Everybody Hates Chris," "The Game," "Tyler Perry's House of Payne" and "Ugly Betty." For TV drama, the nominees are "Grey's Anatomy," "House," "Lincoln Heights," "The Unit" and "The Wire."

The Image Awards honoring diversity in the arts will be presented at a Feb. 12 ceremony.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Michael Jackson leases pricey Bel Air estate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The King of Pop is back—in town, that is. Michael Jackson has signed a yearlong lease on a mansion in the swanky Bel Air area of the city, a spokesman for the singer said Wednesday. Jackson has been staying in the estate for about a month, said spokesman Tohme Tohme, who called the property "a little bit more than an average home." The lease agreement is for $100,000 a month. The home has seven bedrooms, 13 bathrooms and 12 fireplaces. Jackson, 50, relocated to the city with his three children to be closer to Hollywood and the entertainment industry, said Tohme, promising that "the second half (of his career) will be better than the first."

Jay-Z to play concert on eve of Obama inauguration

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay-Z isn't performing at President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration, but he is planning to make a big splash on the eve of the event. The rapper, one of Obama's biggest celebrity boosters, has announced that he's playing a concert in Washington on Jan. 19, the day before Obama officially drops "elect" from his title. Jay-Z will perform for a crowd of less than 2,000 at the Warner Theatre.

Lautner back as Jacob Black in 'Twilight' sequel

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Lautner will be back to morph into the monstrous Jacob Black in the "Twilight" sequel "New Moon." There had been talk that a bigger, buffer, more menacing actor might play the role when the second of Stephenie Meyer's hugely successful vampire novels hits movie screens come Nov. 20. Lautner, by comparison, appears lean and sweet-faced in part one. But distributor Summit Entertainment and director Chris Weitz confirmed Wednesday that Lautner would be returning. Stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson will also be returning as the saga's doomed young lovers, high schooler Bella Swan and brooding vampire Edward Cullen. Catherine Hardwicke's "Twilight" opened at No. 1 with a whopping $69.6 million at the box office in November, the biggest opening ever for a female director. It has since grossed about $177 million domestically.

No 'King Lear' nude scene for McKellen

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP)—Ian McKellen says his onstage "King Lear" nude scene is discreetly avoided in the upcoming public television version of the play. A public TV executive said Wednesday at a meeting of the Television Critics Association that the decision to forgo full-frontal nudity by McKellen was made by Trevor Nunn, director of the acclaimed Royal Shakespeare Company production that airs March 25. McKellen said audiences can be distracted when an actor or actress strips. The British actor, who turns 70 this year, of "Lord of the Rings" and "X-Men" films fame, said cutting the nudity left the production's quality unaffected.

Donda West surgeon jailed in Calif. DUI case

VALLEJO, Calif. (AP)—The plastic surgeon who operated on Kanye West's mother before she died has been sentenced to a year in jail for drunken driving. Dr. Jan Adams pleaded no contest to misdemeanor drunken driving last year. Authorities say his Jaguar was spotted early June 26 traveling the wrong way on Interstate 680 near Cordelia. Adams' blood alcohol level was .20 percent. Solano County Court Commissioner Ray Wieser sentenced the 54-year-old surgeon, author and TV personality Monday. He'll get credit for eight days he previously was jailed. Adams performed breast reduction, tummy tuck and liposuction on Donda West a day before she died in 2007. An autopsy blamed heart disease coupled with complications from the surgery.

'The Mentalist' scores a football boost from CBS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS is giving a juicy post-championship game time slot to its new hit series, "The Mentalist." An episode about murder and the theft of a multimillion-dollar painting will air 10 p.m. EST Jan. 18, following the National Football League's American Football Conference championship game. The drama series regularly airs Tuesday nights. "The Mentalist," which stars Simon Baker as a fake psychic who turns his skills to helping California state crime fighters, has been a ratings winner for CBS since its fall debut. A show that airs after a big sports event gets additional exposure and a shot at more viewers.

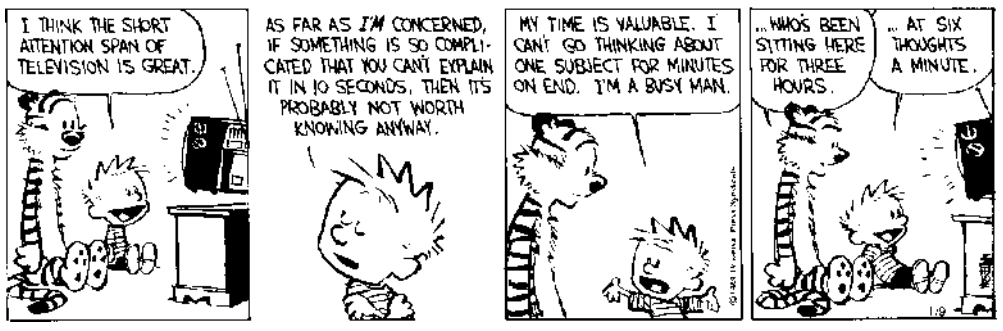
Ken Burns adding a 10th inning to 'Baseball'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Filmmaker Ken Burns is adding a tenth inning to his nine-part "Baseball" documentary series that aired in the '90s on public television. PBS said Wednesday that the new film, titled "The Tenth Inning," will air in spring 2010, along with a rebroadcast of the original nine-part "Baseball" documentary series that debuted in 1994. Meanwhile, the series is running Tuesday nights on the new MLB Network. The new film will track baseball history from 1993 through 2008, beginning where the original series ended, and feature interviews with Felipe Alou, Joe Torre and other baseball figures.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

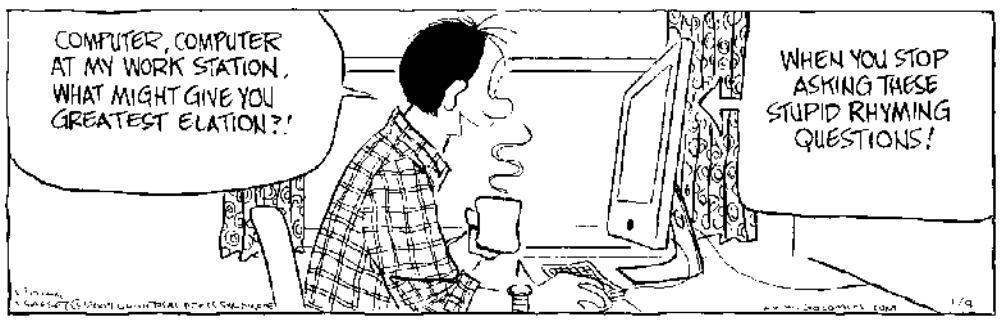

I THINK THE SHORT ATTENTION SPAN OF TELEVISION IS GREAT.
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IF SOMETHING IS SO COMPLICATED THAT YOU CAN'T EXPLAIN IT IN 10 SECONDS, THEN IT'S PROBABLY NOT WORTH KNOWING ANYWAY.
MY TIME IS VALUABLE. I CAN'T GO THINKING ABOUT ONE SUBJECT FOR MINUTES ON END. I'M A BUSY MAN.
..WHO'S BEEN SITTING HERE FOR THREE HOURS.
.. AT SIX THOUGHTS A MINUTE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


COMPUTER, COMPUTER AT MY WORK STATION, WHAT MIGHT GIVE YOU GREATEST ELATION?!
WHEN YOU STOP ASKING THESE STUPID RHYMING QUESTIONS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SO YOU GOT FIRED AGAIN! WELL THAT'S JUST GREAT! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO PAY THE BILLS?!
WELL, THERE'S ALWAYS MY SEVERANCE PACKAGE.
WHAT SEVERANCE PACKAGE?
I'M GOING TO PAWN THE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF OFFICE SUPPLIES I SWIPED.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

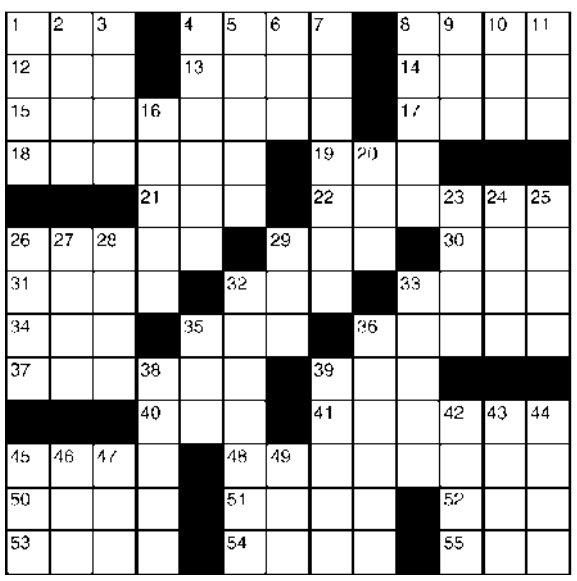
ACROSS
1 Wool wearer
4 Out of harm's way
8 Forehead
12 Prune
13 Mountain goat
14 Discourteous
15 Somewhat buried (in)
17 Prayer closer
18 Breastbones
19 Legislation
21 Jewel
22 Dormant
26 Mixed metal
29 Marceau character
30 One of the kin
31 "Give a —, don't pollute"
32 Opposite of ionist
33 Minor players
34 Past
35 Candle matter
36 Hiawatha's craft
37 Flock loser
39 Scratch
40 Pod occupant
41 Wears away
45 Poolroom supply
48 Road Runner's call
50 Frizzy do
51 Tardy
52 Microbrewery output
53 Verse
54 Formerly, formerly
55 Big Apple letters

DOWN
1 Benevolent herd?
2 Refuses to
3 Duel tool
4 Director Lumet
5 Perpendicular, at sea
6 Retainer
7 Clarify
8 Barroom set-to
9 Pirates' quaff
10 "— on a Grecian Urn"
11 Rune equivalent to a W
16 Grain disease
20 Cleo's slayer
23 Black, to Browning?
24 Therefore
25 Sit for a shot
26 Moby's pursuer
27 Trademark symbol
28 Aerobatic maneuver
29 Carton
32 Skilled
33 Ersatz chocolate
35 Teensy
36 Kidder m nster, e.g.
38 — salts
39 Bumps into
42 Campus VIP
43 Slithery
44 Detail, for short
45 Upper limit
46 E.T.'s vessel
47 Before
49 Corn spike

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	N	N	E	■	C	O	W	S	■	F	A	M
C	O	O	L	■	A	H	C	Y	■	E	V	E
■	E	D	D	A	N	S	C	N	■	D	O	W
S	L	E	E	V	E	■	■	C	R	A	W	L
■	■	■	R	E	■	A	P	H	I	D	■	■
I	I	F	S	■	■	W	C	■	O	A	F	S
O	L	D	■	■	A	F	I	■	■	I	R	A
B	L	O	W	■	M	U	S	■	D	F	O	R
■	■	N	O	B	E	L	■	A	A	■	■	■
S	T	E	N	O	■	■	A	L	M	O	S	T
J	R	I	■	N	E	D	B	E	A	T	T	Y
B	I	L	■	E	H	I	E	■	S	I	E	P
S	O	L	■	S	A	N	D	■	K	O	T	O

Yesterday's answer 1-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: A.J. McLean, 31; Dave Matthews, 42; Crystal Gayle, 58; Joan Baez, 68

Happy Birthday: You are incredibly creative and innovative this year. You can take some of your ideas of the past and turn them into something viable. Keeping things small and simple and building on solid ground will lead to your success. Stick to basics and what you know and do best and you will triumph. Your numbers are 1, 4, 9, 15, 23, 30, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Talk about your concerns and you will find solutions. Someone from your past will want your help. Give freely of your time and you will be rewarded in ways you can't imagine. Don't give in to fear. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you make an unreasonable promise, it may cost you financially and emotionally. Keep things simple and do the work yourself. Love is on the rise and taking a romantic time out will benefit your relationship. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep things in perspective when it comes to personal matters and relationships. If someone is pushing you too hard, back away. Don't give in to demands but, instead, promote those things that will help you get ahead. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Hold off giving your opinion with personal matters that may leave you in a precarious position. You'll be emotional and should be putting your deep thought and feelings into passionate matters. Let the positive overrule the negative. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Address an issue that is bothering you and you will find out exactly where you stand. It may not be what you want to hear but at least it will get you moving in a direction that better suits you. Stick to a budget. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take part in whatever is going on around you if you want to get the true sense of belonging. A passionate encounter with someone special is apparent. Network, party and have some fun. You deserve a break. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may be opposed by someone you least expect but your ability to think fast and come up with imaginative solutions will help you win in the end. Concentrate on the things you enjoy doing and set a schedule that allows for those hobbies or projects. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let a potentially risky proposition tempt you. Someone is probably feeding you false information that will lead to overspending and loss. Listen to someone with experience but make your own decision. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't be guided by what others do or say. Look at the facts before you dive into something that could turn sour. A love connection may lead to unreasonable thinking. Justify your actions before moving down a path of no return. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let emotional problems interfere with your professionalism. If someone is jeopardizing your ability to finish what you start, put an end to it. A love connection looks promising. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Getting together with old friends or finding a new hobby or pastime will enable you to grow creatively. Offer help to an organization or group you once were a part of. Giving back will make you realize how far you've come. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Stick to your game plan and you will accomplish your goals. Someone who wants your attention may tempt you but satisfy your own needs first. Be clear about your agenda and continue along the path you have chosen. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are passionate and eager to try new things. You are curious and like adventure and excitement. You can see clearly but will often push things to the limit to see what you can get away with.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					8		6
	8			6			
			7		9		2
		6		9		3	
	2		6		1		5
		7		3		1	
7			4		2		
				7			1
3		5					

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	7	5	1	6	3	4	8	9
9	6	3	8	2	4	1	5	7
1	4	8	9	5	7	2	6	3
7	8	4	2	9	6	3	1	5
3	2	6	4	1	5	7	9	8
5	1	9	7	3	8	6	4	2
4	3	2	5	8	1	9	7	6
6	5	7	3	4	9	8	2	1
8	9	1	6	7	2	5	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HAPPY 40TH TO MY WIFE, SOPHIE Solution: 11 letters

D	C	L	P	H	S	S	F	R	A	N	C	I	N	E
A	R	E	A	O	E	I	A	T	L	O	U	I	S	P
V	S	A	R	S	A	N	R	E	O	G	A	N	I	P
I	A	E	H	E	V	R	I	A	D	L	O	T	O	I
D	R	N	L	C	B	E	E	O	P	I	N	R	C	L
S	A	H	I	R	I	R	G	M	T	U	T	R	N	U
E	P	C	R	H	A	R	A	A	A	N	R	O	A	T
G	H	A	E	H	C	H	C	L	S	C	A	T	R	A
N	A	E	H	A	C	I	C	A	P	E	N	C	F	L
E	E	T	T	I	N	N	W	K	M	A	S	I	E	P
L	L	H	O	U	A	A	E	I	L	T	L	V	Y	S
L	L	R	M	U	T	D	L	R	R	A	A	S	K	O
A	E	M	D	T	R	I	N	A	F	R	T	O	Y	U
H	O	H	O	N	F	S	T	I	T	Y	O	G	A	I
C	S	E	G	A	U	G	N	A	L	B	R	O	M	E

© 2009 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 1/9/09

Antoine, Arts, Aunt, Books, Camera, Cerebral Palsy, Challenges, Chamblain, Charles, China, Communications, Davio, Emile, Francine, Francois, French, Godmother, Heroic, Honest, Ideas, Languages, Las Vegas, Latulippe, Linda, Louis, Ottawa, Paris, Raphaelle, Richard, Rome, Soul, Talk, Teach, Tours, Translator, Travel, Victor, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Southland

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house centrally located in Garapan, equipped with a water tank, air conditioners in every room, nice, safe, and friendly neighborhood. NMHC applicants welcome. Please call 483-3848 for more information.

Roland Albert B. Ogo
Normita O. Ogo
Rota, MP 96951
Tel. No: (wk) 532-9596

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION ADOPTION OF:	)	**FCD AD CASE NO. 08-0725**
Joden Cecilion Arceo Ama A Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	)	
Roland Albert B. Ogo Normita O. Ogo Petitioners	)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON January 23, 2009 at 10:30 a.m. in court house at Sinapalo II, Rota MP, Petitioners, Rolando B. Ogo and Normita Ogo will petition the court to adopt the above named minor.

Dated this 23rd day of December, 2008.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

VACANCY: AC/REF TECHNICIAN

Job description
- 5 Years experienced capable to install, service, maintain, troubleshoot and repair air conditioning and refrigeration systems
- A/C equipment to include Chiller, AHU, Split A/C system
- With EPA licence, assure work completed complies with applicable EPA laws, rules and regulations.

Apply in person Monday to Friday at JWS AC & REF • Tel.: 235-5572/4

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

issue issue
issue issue
issue issue
issue issue
issue issue

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Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution:
Tennis shoes

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

2 bedroom apt., furnished, 24hrs. water supply, safe & quiet neighborhood. Located at Beach Rd., Garapan & Gualo Rai Vill. For inquiries: call 483-2729 or 234-5593

House for long term lease. Location: Capitol Hill, along Isa Drive. 3-Bedrooms, 2-1/2 Bath. Fenced all around with gates. Contact: e-mail: florebalecha@cox.net, Cell: (670) 788-6584.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

For rent–Apartment (2 Bedroom)
• Fully furnished, free cable & internet, 24 hrs. water (w/ hot water) • $400./mo. (located in San Vicente across Asin's Mini Mart)
• Call (670) 233-2211/235-5566 for info.

Apartment room for rent. 2 bedroom. Located in Koblerville. $210. Tel: # 288-0728. Yoon Won Suck.

SERVICE

Canada needs you. For details visit www.cicgoingglobal.com or email ivor@cicgoingglobal.com or call 14166369545

EMPLOYMENT

Sablan Enterprises, Inc. is looking for a MASON. Interested applicant may apply at 2nd Floor, VSS Plaza, Chalan Piao, Saipan, MP 96950

"I want to go shopping!"
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 664-3500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: December 26, 2008 Closing date: January 30, 2009

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy for Saipan:

One (1) Comptroller

Detailed information on minimum qualifications and position description for the above position may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor Arrival Building) or the Human Resources Office (2nd floor Departure Building) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or it may also be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at ***www.cpa.gov.mp***

All applications must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicant will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., January 30, 2009.***

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

"AS IS" CONDITION: NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED

YEAR:	MAKE:	MODEL:	LIC NO:
1995	TOYOTA	COROLLA	ABP 962
2000	KIA	SEDONA VAN	ABO 529
1997	FORD	F150 4X4 P/UP TRUCK	ABG 900

The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc. (FISG) is now accepting sealed bids on the above mentioned vehicles at the main office located in the Cabrera Center on Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

FISG reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. All vehicles are sold "As Is" with No Warranties expressed or implied.

Deadline for submission of bids is on Friday, January 16, 2009.

For more information, contact Diego Masga, Collection Department at 234-5706 or 234-8615.

WORLD RESORT
SAIPAN

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: January 1, 2009 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

Saipan World Resort is seeking for a professional Training Assistant Manager to work in a busy hotel industry. Salary and benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities to the successful candidate and in compliance to the CNMI laws.

POSITION TITLE: Training Assistant Manager
SALARY: $2,000.00/Month

NATURE OF WORK:

This position is located within the Department of Human Resources, Saipan World Resort. The incumbent is charged with the responsibility of conducting appropriate assigned workshops and trainings to increase worker's effectiveness on the job, improve morale, and prepare new employees to do jobs for which they are not trained. The incumbent is also charged with the responsibility to research, develop and to put together findings into some type of meaningful and effective training package. The incumbent is supervised by the Manager of Human Resources.

MINIMUM QUALIFCATIONS:

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a BA degree in education, plus five (5) years of actual training experience in hotel industry, of which two (2) years must be teaching/training in resort hotel business.

Interested individuals may pick up an application from the Security Office, Saipan World Resort. Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance addressed to the following:

Miriam K. Seman, Manager
Human Resources Department
Saipan World Resort
P.O. Box 500066 Saipan, MP 96950

Shell
North Pacific Islands

Shell Marianas is seeking a reliable and conscientious candidate to join our team of professionals as a:

Tanker Driver

The main responsibilities of this position will be to safely deliver petroleum products to Customers and Service Stations by operating and maintaining the safe condition of tanker trucks. The successful candidate must be properly licensed to operate heavy goods vehicles; must have a minimum of three (3) years experience operating heavy goods vehicles, and have excellent communication skills.

Qualified and interested individuals may apply by completing and submitting applications with a current Traffic Clearance/Record no later than January 13, 2009, to:

Shell Marianas
Attn: Depot Manager
Industrial Highway
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Shell Marianas is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-006

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Laptop and Desktop Computer Systems & Accessories and others for Marianas High School (MHS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-006" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **February 04, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-006" CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-005

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Desktop Computer Systems and Accessories for Hopwood Jr. High School (HJHS)**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-005" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **January 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-005" CONFIDENTIAL — Responsibility Determination" (one (I)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Celtics lose at home, bow to Rockets

BOSTON (AP)—Now the Celtics are losing at home, too.

The defending NBA champions dropped their sixth game in eight tries Wednesday night, falling to the Houston Rockets 89-85 on Von Wafer 's go-ahead 3-pointer with 44 seconds left. It was the Celtics' first loss in Boston since a Nov. 14 defeat to Denver sent them on a 19-game winning streak.

''In our last timeout, you could see it in our guys' eyes. Like, 'Shoot, we're going to lose this home game,'" Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. ''It bothered them. You could see that. And I was thinking 'That's a good thing.'"

Yao Ming had 26 points and eight rebounds, clinching it on a putback with 12.9 seconds left to help the Rockets snap a three-game losing streak and a five-game road skid.

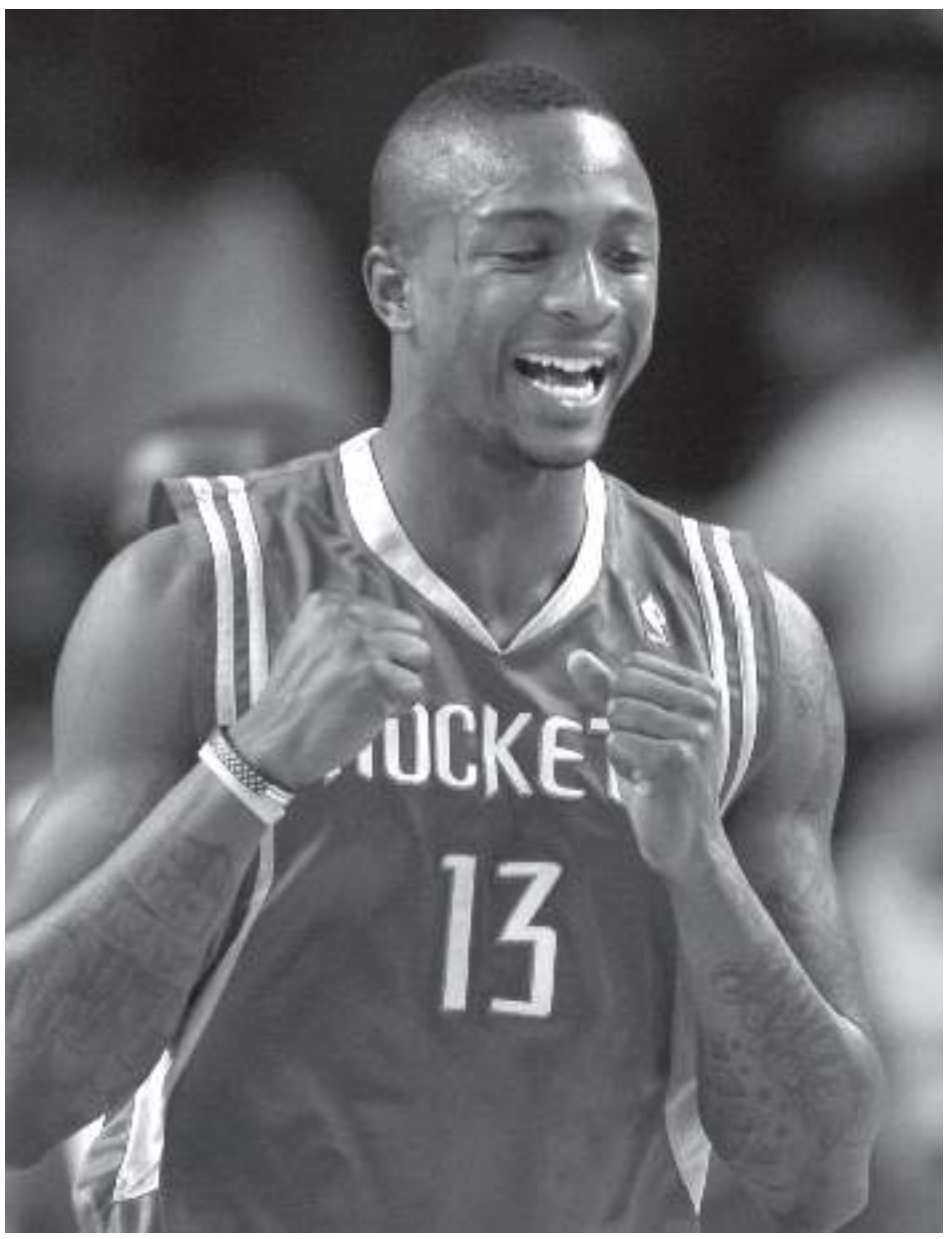
''Yao is unstoppable," said Rockets forward Ron Artest, who scored 17 points playing most of the game in foul trouble. ''Then, when you have shooter surrounding him, it's hard to guard him. He shot right over the top. When he's playing like that, we're going to be tough to beat."

Paul Pierce scored 26 points, and Kevin Garnett had 18 and eight rebounds for the Celtics, who opened the defense of their 17th NBA title with victories in 27 of their first 29 games. But talk of running away with another championship has disappeared as the people in Boston—and the rest of the league—wonder what's happened.

''Nobody said it was going to be easy. I know, at times, we do make it look easy," Garnett said. ''We are a very, very confident team. ... I feel we have the mind-set to weather the storm."

Wafer, starting in place of Tracy McGrady , had 12 points on 4-for-10 shooting. But he squared up for the open 3 when Aaron Brooks regained control of his dribble and made the pass into the corner.

McGrady had missed one game with a sore left knee before returning against Philadelphia on Tuesday night and struggling in the second half. Brooks came off the bench with 19 points for the Rockets, who avoided a second straight season sweep by Boston.



AP

Houston Rockets' Von Wafer celebrates near the end of an NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics in Boston on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009.

''Aaron Brooks made big shots in the fourth quarter," Yao said. '' This is a big win for us, because we have a lot of respect for the Celtics."

Glen Davis scored a season-high 12 for the Celtics.

Houston led 62-55 early in the second half when Garnett scored on the fast break and then hit a jumper to cut it to three points. The Rockets managed just a pair of baskets, by Artest and Chuck Hayes, over the next 4 minutes while Pierce made six straight free throws and hit a 3-pointer to give Boston a 68-66 lead with 3:49 left in the third.

But Boston scored just 11 points in the fourth quarter, getting just two baskets in the first 9:17—both by Gabe Pruitt .

Houston led 83-81 when Artest fouled out with 3:14 left. Pierce pointed him tauntingly to the sideline, while Celtics owner Wyc Grousbeck stood at his courtside seat and waved goodbye.

Pierce made a jumper to tie, it then Yao missed one of two free throws and Garnett hit Rajon Rondo for a layup that gave Boston an 85-84 lead with 1:34 to play. Garnett blocked Brooks and came down with the rebound, but Boston couldn't score and after Brooks nearly lost the ball, he chased it down and dished it to Brooks for the 3.

Pierce missed a jumper and Brooks grabbed the rebound over Rondo. After Carl Landry missed from in close, Yao put it in to make it 89-85.

Cavaliers 111, Bobcats 81

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 21 points before grabbing an early seat on the bench as Cleveland warmed up for its highly anticipated matchup with Boston.

Mo Williams added 15 points to help the Cavaliers improve to 18-0 at home.

On Friday, the Celtics will arrive for a game between the Eastern Conference's premier powers, a rematch of last season's heated seven-game conference semifinal and a possible tease of what could come this spring.

Boston holds a 1-0 edge this season after beating Cleveland 90-85 at home in its opener, when the Celtics raised their 17th title banner.

Raymond Felton led Charlotte with 15 points.

Nuggets 108, Heat 97

At Denver, Chauncey Billups, Linas Kleiza and J.R. Smith scored 21 points apiece to help Denver down Miami for ite fifth straight win.

Denver played without scoring leader Carmelo Anthony, out at least three weeks after fracturing a finger on his right hand Monday.

Dwyane Wade had 31 points for Miami.

Lakers 114, Warriors 106

At Oakland, California, Pau Gasol had 33 points and a career-high 18 rebounds, Kobe Bryant added 21 points and Los Angeles beat Golden State for its seventh win in eight games.

Andrew Bynum had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, coming off a home loss to New Orleans. Jamal Crawford had 25 points and nine assists for Golden State.

Pacers 113, Suns 100

At Phoenix, Danny Granger hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer, and finished with a career-high 37 points as Indiana downed Phoenix.

Granger scored at least 35 points for the third straight game. He had 35 and 36 in his previous two games.

Amare Stoudemire led Phoenix with 23 points and 11 rebounds. Shaquille O'Neal missed the game because of back spasms.

Raptors 99, Wizards 93

At Washington, Andrea Bargnani scored 25 points, and Chris Bosh added 18 for Toronto, down to nine players after trading Hassan Adams to the Los Angeles Clippers in a money-saving move.

Bargnani went 4-for-5 on 3s, and 4-for-4 on other field-goal attempts. Bosh scored half his points in the fourth quarter and had eight rebounds and six assists.

Antawn Jamison scored a season-high 32 points for Washington.

Magic 106, Hawks 102

At Atlanta, Dwight Howard had 23 points and 19 rebounds for Orlando in a matchup of the top two teams in the Southeast Division.

Orlando nearly squandered a 21-point advantage, catching a huge break when Mike Bibby missed a breakaway layup that should have pulled Atlanta within two points with just under 1 1/2 minutes remaining. Josh Smith led Atlanta with 21 points.

Nets 100, Grizzlies 89

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter had 25 points and a season-high 12 assists, and New Jersey won its third straight at home.

Despite playing without leading scorer Devin Harris (sore right hamstring), the Nets raced to an early double-digit lead, kept it for most of the way, and never trailed in a game for the first time this season.

Yi Jianlian added 20 points for the Nets. Memphis rookie O.J. Mayo scored 26 points, and Rudy Gay had 23.

Timberwolves 129, Thunder 87

At Minneapolis, Randy Foye matched his career high with 32 points in just three quarters and Minnesota downed Oklahoma for its fourth straight win.

Al Jefferson added 21 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, which has won six of its last eight following a 13-game losing streak. Russell Westbrook had 16 points and a career-high 12 assists for Oklahoma City.

76ers 110, Bucks 105

At Milwaukee, Andre Miller hit a 3-pointer with 28 seconds left, and finished wih 28 points and nine rebounds as Philadelphia beat Milwaukee.

Richard Jefferson had 27 points for Milwaukee.

Jazz 116, Hornets 90

At Salt Lake City, Paul Millsap had 27 points and 14 rebounds for Utah to extend his NBA-leading double-double streak to 19 games.

Chris Paul had 26 points and seven assists for New Orleans.

BC fires Jagodzinski after coach met with Jets

BOSTON (AP)—Boston College fired Jeff Jagodzinski on Wednesday, days after he was warned of dismissal if he interviewed for the coaching job with the New York Jets.

BC athletic director Gene DeFilippo told Jagodzinski (jay-guh-ZIN'-skee) on Saturday that his job would be in jeopardy if he went through with the Jets interview. Jagodzinski met with the Jets on Tuesday night.

A few hours later, at a Wednesday morning meeting, DeFilippo told Jagodzinski he was out.

"We're really good friends and this is a very difficult thing to do," DeFilippo said at a news conference. "We will find somebody who really wants to be at Boston College and will be here for the length of their contract."

DeFilippo said he fired Jagodzinski over a "difference of vision for the future." He has said he wanted a coach who would stay at the school long term. Jagodzinski has been BC's coach for two years and had three years left on his contract.

"A coach of his talents and personality will have many future opportunities and I am certain of his continued success," he said.

In a statement, Jagodzinski thanked school officials.

"I am so proud of what these students-athletes and our staff have accomplished during our tenure here," Jagodzinski said. "I wish everyone at Boston College the best in the years to come, both on and off the field."

A phone number listed to his home had been disconnected and he did not immediately return a call for comment left on his cell phone.

DeFilippo could replace Jagodzinski, 45, with defensive coordinator Frank Spaziani or assistant head coach Jack Bicknell Jr.

"I wish this day would end and get over then we can begin to look for the next head football coach here at Boston College," DeFilippo said.

The BC job was Jagodzinski's first as a head coach after 22 years as an assistant, 14 in college and eight in the NFL. After one season as offensive coordinator with the Green Bay Packers in 2006, Jagodzinski went to BC after Tom O'Brien left for North Carolina State.

He led the Eagles to two Atlantic Coast Conference title games but lost both to Virginia Tech. They were 11-3 in his first season, when they rose as high as the No. 2 national ranking. They went 9-5 in 2008, winding up with a 16-14 loss to Vanderbilt in the Music City Bowl on Dec. 31 that snapped an eight-game bowl winning streak for the Eagles.

Jagodzinski upset DeFilippo when he didn't tell his boss that he would interview with the Jets, who fired Eric Mangini the day after the team missed the playoffs despite an 8-3 start.

Jagodzinski was Jets quarterback Brett Favre's offensive coordinator in Green Bay but is considered a long shot for the New York job. He also could be interested in an offensive coordinator's position in the pros, which has few if any of the responsibilities of a college coach—recruiting, meeting with alumni and supporters of the program, attending functions and participating in other off-field events.

Seattle needs to assemble a staff under new coach Jim Mora, and Jagodzinski has worked with Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck. Jagodzinski spent two years as BC's offensive coordinator, starting in 1997 when Hasselbeck played there.

Jagodzinski also worked for Mora as an assistant with the Atlanta Falcons.

Tomlinson confirms torn tendon in groin

SAN DIEGO (AP)—LaDainian Tomlinson confirmed Wednesday that he has a torn tendon in his groin and listed himself as doubtful for the San Diego Chargers' playoff game at Pittsburgh on Sunday.

"It's definitely torn," Tomlinson said after sitting out Wednesday's practice. "I can't really elaborate on it because I don't want to give too much information away."

Tomlinson was hurt in a 52-21 rout against Denver in the regular-season finale on Dec. 28 that clinched the AFC West title. The team has listed him as having a strained groin.

"If it was a strain I'd be able to play with it, trust me," Tomlinson said. "A lot of guys have strains."

Reports surfaced prior to Saturday's wild-card win against the Indianapolis Colts that Tomlinson has a detached tendon that connects one of his groin muscles to his pubic bone.

Tomlinson started against the Colts but came out after scoring on a 3-yard run early in the second quarter. With Darren Sproles filling in, the Chargers won 23-17 in overtime.

Tomlinson said this injury has been tougher than any he's had during his brilliant eight-year career.

"It feels like something is tearing away from my leg. That's how I know that it's messed up because before, when I've had groin injuries, I haven't felt that," said Tomlinson, the NFL MVP in 2006 who set league records that year with 31 touchdowns and 186 points. "Whenever you feel a popping or like it's tearing, that's usually not good."

NFL teams don't give an injured player's status until Friday. But Tomlinson said his status is doubtful, meaning there's a 75 percent chance he won't play.

"That's pretty much what I feel like I'm at," said Tomlinson, the franchise's most brutally honest employee.

Has he been ruled out of the game?

"No. Not yet," he added.

If the Chargers keep winning, there might be a chance Tomlinson could return.

"I think it's possible," he said. "I'm never going to rule it out. I'll have to start to feel much better, though."

Tomlinson said there's a chance he could make the injury worse if he continued to play "and do some of the things I have to do. Who knows how much? Once again, I don't even know if it's going to require surgery."

Tomlinson had a 13-yard gain on the first play from scrimmage Saturday night but said his leg was dragging.

"That's why I said earlier that that game was just all pure determination of trying to just push it and trying to do as much as I could and go. But it was clear from the first carry that I couldn't pick my leg up and explode and it did feel like it was dragging."

While happy with the team's success, Tomlinson said it's frustrating dealing with another injury in the playoffs.

Browns set to hire Mangini as coach

CLEVELAND (AP)—Eric Mangini is the new head coach of the Cleveland Browns, a week after being fired by the New York Jets. A person with knowledge of the negotiations told The Associated Press that Mangini will be introduced Thursday at a news conference at the team's headquarters in Berea.

The 37-year-old Mangini agreed to a four-year deal with the club Wednesday, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because contract details had yet to be finalized.

Mangini began his NFL career as a ballboy with the Browns in 1994 under then-coach Bill Belichick. Now he's taking over the job of one of his best friends in football, fired Browns coach Romeo Crennel.

Mangini went 23-25 and made the playoffs once in three seasons with the Jets, who stumbled down the stretch to lose four of their last five games and miss the playoffs after an 8-3 start.

His tenure in New York was tumultuous. When he arrived, Mangini inherited a 4-12 Jets team and led them to 10 wins in his first season, prompting New York's tabloids to dub him "Mangenius." By the end of his run in the NFL's largest market, he was being called moody, dour and controlling.

Mangini took the fall after the Jets finished a disastrous stretch where they lost to Denver, San Francisco and Seattle—three non-playoff teams—in the final month behind 39-year-old quarterback Brett Favre's injured arm and questionable play calling by Mangini.

Mangini and Crennel both lost their jobs on Dec. 29, although Browns owner Randy Lerner was not aware of Mangini's dismissal when he met with the media regarding Crennel.

Lerner wasted no time in going after Mangini and interviewed him the following night in the New York area.

Despite the Jets' meltdown, Lerner was enamored with Mangini's potential and believed he would bring discipline to the underachieving Browns. Lerner also believed Mangini, who will be 38 on Jan. 19, learned from his mistakes in New York.

Jets running back Leon Washington said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that he was pleased to see Mangini land another head coaching job.

"I am really happy for Coach Mangini," Washington said in the e-mail. "I learned so much from him while he had his tenure with the Jets. His hardworking, selfless and competitive approach really helped me...The Browns got themselves a really good coach."

Jets long snapper James Dearth said the Browns are a good fit for Mangini. "They run the same type of defense there, so they already have the right personnel for him. I hope he does well there," Dearth said.

Mangini's hiring could lead to Crennel staying with the Browns. After his dismissal, Crennel told Lerner he was open to remaining with Cleveland as an assistant, depending on who replaced him.

Mangini and Crennel became friends during their days as assistants with the Jets under Bill Parcells. Mangini was a defensive assistant while Crennel was the defensive line coach from 1997-99. Mangini followed Belichick to New England in 2000, and Crennel joined the Patriots' staff a year later after a stint as Cleveland's defensive coordinator.

Crennel and his wife, Rosemary, stayed with Mangini and his wife, Julie, for about six months when the Crennels were having a home built after Romeo took the job as New England's defensive coordinator.

When Crennel was hired as Cleveland's coach, he wanted Mangini as his defensive coordinator but Mangini decided to take over Crennel's spot with the Patriots instead.

Mangini was one of four candidates interviewed by Lerner, but the only one with NFL head coaching experience—a prerequisite for the Browns owner, who also spoke with New York Giants defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Browns defensive coordinator Mel Tucker.

Mangini takes over a Browns team with more talent than Crennel had when he arrived in 2005. Cleveland entered 2008 with high expectations after going 10-6 last year. But beginning with a training camp injury to wide receiver Braylon Edward, who cut his foot while running in his socks after practice, the season unraveled quickly.

The Browns blew back-to-back home games in a five-day span and finished the season 4-12 without scoring an offensive touchdown in their final six games. On the way to their fifth season of at least 10 losses in the past six years, the Browns changed quarterbacks, benching Pro Bowler Derek Anderson in favor of Brady Quinn.

Lerner fired GM Phil Savage after a 31-0 loss at Pittsburgh in the season finale. He then interviewed Scott Pioli, New England's highly regarded director of player personnel, and had hoped to pair him with Mangini in Cleveland.

Docomo cruises past Beach Boys

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REPORTER

Docomo played its first game of the year and caught a big fish in the Beach Boys notching an 8-3 win in the men's division of the 2008 Inter Government/ Business Softball League Wednesday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Docomo allowed the Beach Boys, who are among the Top 3 teams in the 20-squad field and absorbed only their second loss of the season, to score only in two innings.

Leftfielder Jun Salalila put the Beach Boys in the scoreboard at the bottom of the third scoring on Dave Kapileo's fielding error. Third basemen Ota Nobuyuku gave the Beach Boys their second run reaching home plate in the third on a Jeremy Koshiro's single.

The Beach Boys' third and last run came from first baseman B.J. Sablan, who had a solo homer at the bottom of the fifth inning. But Sablan's round-tripper failed to inspire his teammates for a comeback, as Docomo's defense tightened up, anew in the last two innings shutting out the latter to preserve the win.

Docomo started the game with a three-run top of the first and scored two runs each in the second and fourth inning. Docomo's eighth and final run was courtesy of a solo homer from leftfielder Payton Sakuma at the top of the sixth. Sakuma finished 2-for-3 at-bat, scored two runs, and had two RBIs.

The victory improved Docomo' record to 5-4.

The Beach Boys (6-2) dropped from third to a tie for fourth place with No Zone and Joeten Motors Jets.

CRM/DEQ 10, Hopwood 9

CRM/DEQ made on stop at the bottom of the seventh inning to eke out a 10-9 win over Hopwood.

Shortstop Elmer Sablan made a perfect pass to second baseman John Iguel, who tagged Mario Palacios out for the third out at the bottom of the seventh inning ending Hopwood's chances to steal the game.

Hopwood threatened CRM/DEQ when Palacios' single drove Tim Williams home moving the former within one, 9-10.

Hopwood's next two batters were beaten to second and first base, while fourth batter John Pialur walked and later advanced to second. Palacios batted fourth, singled, but was beaten to second for the final out.

CRM/DEQ earned their fourth win in nine games, while Hopwood remained winless after nine assignments.

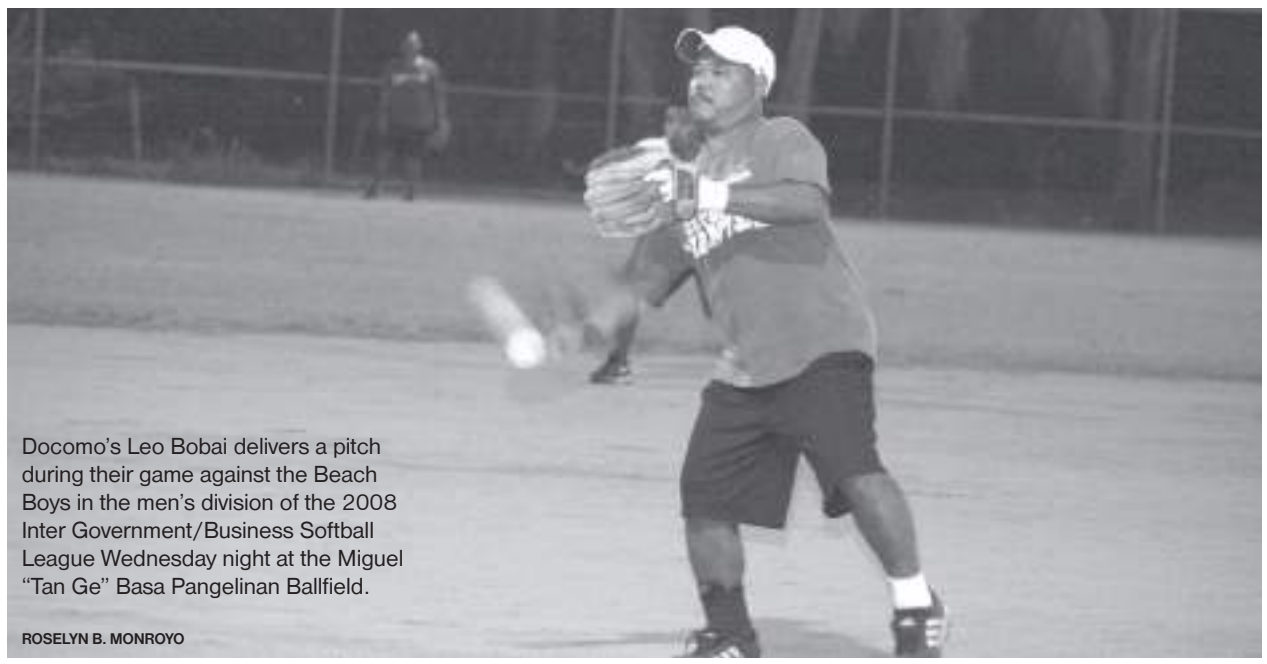
POI 8, CUC 7

In another close game, Pacific Oriental, Inc. gave up only two runs in the first six innings and halted Commonwealth Utilities, Corp.'s rally at the top of the seventh to escape with an 8-7 victory.

CUC made one final push to recover and grab the win at the top of the seventh when it scored three earned runs and two unearned. But a 4-3 putout play prevented CUC from stealing the game.

With two outs and a runner in first, Ed Kapileo stepped up to the plate, hit the ball, which landed near second base. POI second baseman Victor Ada picked up the grounder and threw the ball to first baseman Ken Kaipat to wrap up the match.

POI improved to a 4-3 record, while CUC dropped to a 2-7 slate.



Docomo's Leo Bobai delivers a pitch during their game against the Beach Boys in the men's division of the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League Wednesday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

HEO

From Page 36

over Adib Golshan of Albury.

Heo is in Australia as part of the ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team. Joining him on the team are Cook Islands' Elias Tukaroa, Fiji's Tony O'Connell, Solomon Islands' Luke Paeni, and Samoa's Prince Matautia.

From Albury, the group will go to Wodonga, which will host a tournament from Jan. 13 to 17.

Heo and his teammates will leave Wodonga on Jan. 18 to go to Melbourne and watch several qualifying matches for the 2009 Australian Open.

From Australia, the ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team will go to New Zealand for training sessions in Christchurch and tournaments in three various places.

Heo and his teammates are expected to arrive in Christchurch on Jan. 21 and stay there for two days before going to Canterbury, where an ITF qualifying tournament awaits the group.

Besides the tournament in Canterbury, Heo will also be competing in Auckland and Wellington,

The CNMI netter is hoping to earn more points in the three tournaments in New Zealand to improve his rankings, which is currently No. 1,226.

Heo is also trying to get his tough form back after lackluster performances in Japan, Korea, and the Philippines in the last quarter of 2008.

The Marianas High School student had forgettable stints in Japan, the Philippines, and Korea as he played hurt following an injury he sustained while competing in New Caledonia mid last year.

In August, Heo continued to play in pain in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji. He made it into the finals, but lost to Lorenzo Pineda of Vanuatu.

Making it to the top two in the boys' 18-and-under division of the POJC allowed Heo to earn a return trip to Australia, and a bonus stint in New Zealand tournaments.

KAGMAN

From Page 36

their frontcourt and when they did, they muffed layups.

Kagman also lost possessions in the succeeding plays, but the exchanges of miscues worked on the Lady Ayuyus' advantage, as the clock continued to melt while two teams struggled for the loose balls.

Another undergoal stab from Merceda Mesa gave Kagman a double-digit lead, 52-42, with 14 seconds left on the clock.

The remaining time in the game saw the Knights missing two shots and Kagman failing to make a final attempt.

The Lady Ayuyus won last year's varsity title after sweeping the season and beating Marianas High School in the finals.

Bennett, who was part of last season's champion team paced the Lady Ayuyus with 12 points. Mesa chipped in 11, while Nikita Hofschneider added nine.

Kagman had seven players making it into the scoreboard, while Mt. Carmel had only four players scoring.

Nicole Lebria led all scorers with her 24 points, while Noelle Calvo contributed 14. Taylor and Megan had only two points apiece.

The girls and boys varsity caging will feature four teams with Saipan Southern High School joining the list.

The Manta Rays are this season's defending champion after grabbing the title from the MHS Dolphins last year.

Games in both divisions will be played every Wednesday and Friday with the girls playing first at 4:30pm. The boys division match will be played 20 minutes after the girls game ends.

The regular season will have a double-round robin format with all four teams advancing to the crossover playoffs.

KHS 52—Yvo. Bennett 12, Mesa 11, Hofschneider 9, Diaz 8, Mettao 5, Repeki 5, Mizutani 2.

MCS 42—Lebria 24, Calvo 14, Megan 2, Taylor 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-5, 22-13, 35-28, 52-42.

200

From Page 36

9 is only $35 for full marathon, and $25 for the two other races. A late fee of $10 will be added for registrations made after Jan. 9. No registration fee will be accepted during the races and participants have until Jan. 16 to register.

A mandatory race orientation will be held, also on Jan. 16, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater at 4pm.

Participants in the full marathon will race first starting at 4:30am next Saturday, while the two other races will begin at 5:45am.

All races will begin and end at the Micro Beach will participants in the full marathon heading north along Middle Road through the villages of Puerto Rico, Tanapag, and San Roque; turning around in Marpi right before reaching the Far East Broadcasting Company turnoff; and returning to connect with the half marathon course.

The half marathon course will start at Micro Beach south on Beach Road along Saipan's western lagoon going through the villages of Garapan, San Jose, Susupe, Chalan Kanoa, and San Antonio, turning around San Antonio basketball court and returning at Micro Beach. The 10K Fun Run will have the same starting point with runners cruising Beach Road and passing the villages of Garapan and San Jose, making a turn at the Pacific Outlet, and returning to Micro Beach.

Organizers will be using automated, chip-technology timing system from Keisoku-kobo for the three races.

Japan's Nobuyuki Yamamoto and Saipan resident Mamiko Oshima ruled last year's full marathon, while Eli Torgeson and Guam's Amy Atkinson prevailed in the half marathon.

This year's Festival of Runs is being supported by Northwest Airlines, Oakley, MVA, Northern Marianas Athletics, and DFS Galleria Saipan. Other sponsors are Department of Public Safety, Hawaiian Rock, American Memorial Park, Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, and Commonwealth Health Center.

To register or for more information, contact Ed Diaz 1-670-664-3210 or email at ediaz@mymarianas.com.

Custom Goodwill Softball moved to Jan. 17

The Custom Goodwill Softball Tournament has been rescheduled to Jan 17. instead of the original Jan. 9 starting date.

The two-day tournament will be held at the Dandan Ballfield and teams entrance fee is $150. The entrance fee is due at the final meeting scheduled for Jan. 15, 2009 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Pavilion at 6:30pm.

A representative of interested teams must attend the meeting. For more information, call Craig Sanchez at 483-3295 or Sam Salas at 285-7527. ***(PR)***

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	8	.784	_
New Jersey	18	18	.500	10 1/2
Philadelphia	15	20	.429	13
Toronto	15	21	.417	13 1/20
New York	13	20	.394	14

Southeast Division

Orlando	28	8	.778	_
Atlanta	22	12	.647	5
Miami	18	16	.529	9
Charlotte	13	23	.361	15
Washington	7	27	.206	20

Central Division

Cleveland	28	6	.824	_
Detroit	21	12	.636	6 1/2
Milwaukee	17	20	.459	12 1/2
Chicago	15	20	.429	13 1/2
Indiana	13	22	.371	15 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	23	11	.676	_
New Orleans	21	11	.656	1
Dallas	21	13	.618	2
Houston	22	15	.595	2 1/2
Memphis	11	25	.306	13

Northwest Division

Denver	25	12	.676	_
Portland	21	14	.600	3
Utah	21	15	.583	3 1/2
Minnesota	10	25	.286	14
Oklahoma City	5	31	.139	19 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	28	6	.824	_
Phoenix	19	13	.594	8
Golden State	10	27	.270	19 1/2
L.A. Clippers	8	26	.235	20
Sacramento	8	28	.222	21

Yesterday's Games

Orlando 106, Atlanta 102
Toronto 99, Washington 93
Cleveland 111, Charlotte 81
New Jersey 100, Memphis 89
Houston 89, Boston 85
Philadelphia 110, Milwaukee 105
Minnesota 129, Oklahoma City 87
Denver 108, Miami 97
Indiana 113, Phoenix 110
Utah 116, New Orleans 90
Portland 84, Detroit 83
L.A. Lakers 114, Golden State 106

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

DCCA	9	0
CPA	7	1
Freedom Air	6	1
Beach Boys	6	2
No Zone	6	2
Joeten Motors	6	2
Legislature	5	3
DLNR	5	3
Docomo	5	4
POI	4	3
DEQ/CRM	4	5
P & S	3	3
Law & Order	3	6
PSS	2	5
Customs	2	5
CHC	2	6
CUC	2	7
PIC	1	6
Mayors	1	7
Hopwood	0	8

Women's Division

NMC	7	0
DCCA	3	3
CUC	2	4
Finance	2	4
CHC	1	4

Co-ed soccer organizers to hold clinic Sunday

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REPORTER

Organizers of the 2009 Co-ed Soccer Spring League will be holding a camp this Sunday at the Navy Hill Field.

David Khorram, who is organizing the league along with Jaime Saiki and Angelo Villagomez, said the camp aims to introduce newcomers to the sport.

"We are very delighted to see more new players registering for the co-ed league and we will be holding a clinic for them in preparation for the opening of the league," Khorram said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

"We had an almost equal number of male and female players wanting to be part of the co-ed league. So far we have 75 players who had already registered," Khorram said.

Khorram added they have yet to decide on the kickoff date for the co-ed league, but they are looking to open shop this month or early next month.

Games will be played every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and will start at 5:15pm at the CPA Field. But Khorram said schedules are tentative, as they will depend on the number of teams.

"It will be great to have six teams for this year's co-ed soccer league," Khorram said.

Zoe Jewell makes a penalty shot in one of the soccer tournaments on Saipan last year. A clinic for the co-ed soccer league is set for this Sunday at the Navy Hill Field.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI National Coach Nick Swaim will be conducting the clinic from 4pm to 6pm.

Swaim is expected to teach participants drills on dribbling, passing, shooting, and other basic skills.

Before starting the league, organizers will have veteran players scattered among the participating teams and joining new players.

The league will limit the number of "A" players per team, and the role of these proficient players will be to teach and to support the development of the less skilled players.

A players are those with the ability to play in the men's or women's league, or have significant experience playing soccer. B players have some soccer experience and with moderate stamina, while C types are those new to soccer, or completely out of shape.

Each team in the co-ed league will be composed of 11 players.

If interested to play or for more information, contact Villagomez at 285 6462 or email angelovillagomez@gmail.com.

Tinian Dynasty Invitational kicks off Feb. 9

The Inaugural Tinian Dynasty Basketball League finally has an opening date as the caging competition organized by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino will start on Feb. 9 at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium in San Jose.

The season opener will pit Saipan World Resort against Fiesta Resort and Spa/Saipan Grand Hotel. It will be followed by the second game between Hyatt Regency Saipan and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Completing the triple-header will be the matchup between Aqua Resort Club and host Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

TDHC general manager Tom Liu in an earlier report said he is inviting his counterparts from Saipan-based hotels because he wasts to duplicate the success of the past stagings of the HANMI Cup.

"The games will be played every Monday night until a champion is crowned. The tournament is to promote sportsmanship, camaraderie, and friendship in the hospitality industry," he said.

Liu added that to make the teams' travel to Tinian worthwhile their food, transportation, and hotel accommodations will all be shouldered by them.

Under the arrangement, Tinian Dynasty will also offer a special room rate of $40 plus 10 percent tax to fans of teams taking part in the competition. Liu said complimentary tickets will also be provided to teams and their supporters.

HANMI Cup coordinator Lito "William" Espino said because of the Inaugural Tinian Dynasty Invitational Basketball League, he may have to consider putting off the start of the 2009 HANMI Cup to later this year. ***(Mark Rabago)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino general manager Tom Liu, sixth from left, joins representatives of Aqua Resort Club, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel, Pacific Islands Club, World Resort, and Hyatt Regency Saipan during a recent meeting at the Costa Terrace Restaurant of Aqua Resort Club.

RGA January qualifier on Jan. 17

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its first event of 2009 when the Coral Oceani Point Golf Resort hosts its January qualifier on Jan. 17.

RGA tournament director Jess Wabol said check-in time for the weekend golf bash 11am with tee time set an hour later at 12pm. There will be slots for a maximum of 16 players.

Wabol also encouraged current and past members to pay RGA's annual membership fee, which will remain at $25 because of the current economic crisis.

For more information about RGA's January qualifier and the rest of its tournaments for 2009, contact president Jordan Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129.

In related news, Wabol announced that the San Jose Church Golf Tournament will be held on March 14 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The tournament will adopt a double Peoria format and will award $300 for first place, $200 for second place, and $150 for third. Consolation prizes also await players that finish from fourth to 10th places. ***(PR)***

Amigos Golf Club starts comeback with Jan. 11 tourney

After a two-year absence, Amigos Golf Club will be returning to the island's greens with qualifying tournament set for this Sunday, Jan. 11, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Tournament director said the January Ace qualifying tournament will have a check-in time of 11am and the green fee is $30.

The revived Amigos Golf Club is led by president Ed Manglona and vice president Joe Sablan, Jr. Other officials are: secretary Terry Attao; treasurer Lorraine Babauta; public information officer Pete Leon Guerrero, and Ada.

Its board of directors include Ben Jones, Manny Blas, Joe Lizama, Frank Guerrero, Joe Tudela, and John M. Guerrero.

According to its website, the mission of the Amigos Golf Club is to foster friendship and camaraderie between friends, both men and women, who share the passion for the game of golf.

It said the new club is a spinoff of the old Amigos Club, but continues to be a venue for fellowship between friends or amigos.

The club plays every Sunday in accordance with the schedule, except when prevented by other conflicting events. Club members vie for the coveted monthly ace which is determined by the best net score between the qualifying game and the ace game held during each month.

Amigos Golf Club also holds an annual Ace of Aces Tournament that expects to crown the Club Champion from among the 12 monthly aces.

Its motto is: "Play Hard and Play Fair." ***(Mark Rabago)***

1st CWGA *tourney of '09 tomorrow*

The CNMI Women's Golf Association's January Ace of the Month Tournament will be held this Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time is set at 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(CWGA)***

Celtics lose at home, bow to Rockets

The defending NBA champions dropped their sixth game in eight tries Wednesday night, falling to the Houston Rockets 89-85 on Von Wafer 's go-ahead 3-pointer with 44 seconds left.

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Sports

Co-ed soccer organizers to hold clinic Sunday

Organizers of the 2009 Co-ed Soccer Spring League will be holding a camp this Sunday at the Navy Hill Field.

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Heo sweeps first two matches Down Under

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior netter Ji Hoon Heo was off to a good start Down Under sweeping his first two matches in the 2009 Post Margaret Court Cup at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales, Australia.

Heo, who left Saipan Sunday to compete in two tournaments in Australia, had an impressive 6-0, 6-0 win over Joshua Verity of Thurgoona, NSW in the opening round of the tournament on Wednesday.

In the second round, Heo was still on target beating Matt Thompson of Albany, Wodonga in straight sets, 6-2, 6-0, yesterday moving the CNMI netter to the Round of 32.

Heo's next foe will be the No. 10 seed Robert Partington, also of Albany, Wodonga.

Partington drew a bye in the first round and came from a hard-earned 3-6, 7-6, 6-2 triumph

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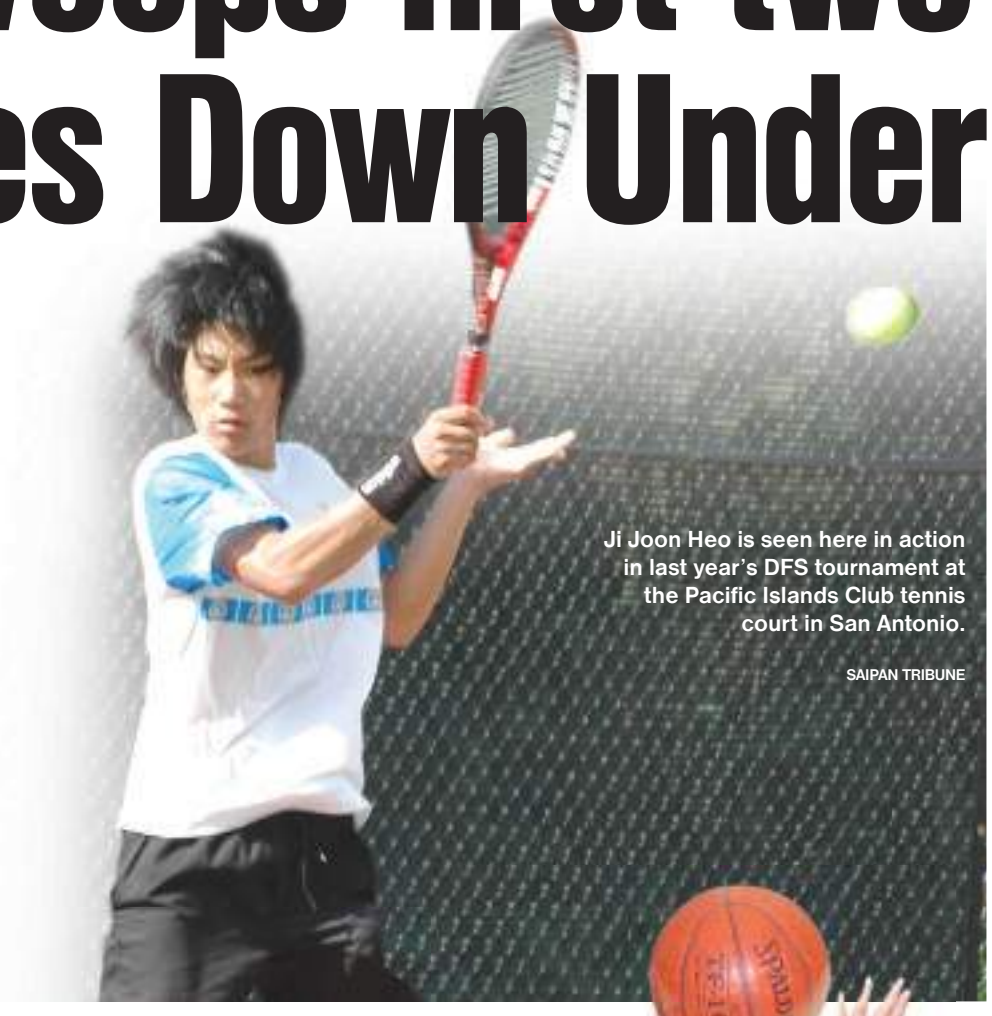

Ji Joon Heo is seen here in action in last year's DFS tournament at the Pacific Islands Club tennis court in San Antonio.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kagman downs Mount Carmel in MISO opener

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REPORTER

Kagman High School started its title defense in the girls varsity division of the 2008-2008 MISO Basketball League with a 52-42 victory over Mt. Carmel School Wednesday night at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Ayuyus shutdown the Lady Knights in the last 1:46 of the fourth quarter to prevail in the opening day of the varsity division caging.

The Lady Knights were behind by only six, 42-48, with less than two minutes remaining on the clock when the Lady Ayuyus' struggling defense from the backcourt forces the latter to commit successive errors and take hurried shots.

A steal from a backcourt inbound play allowed Yvonne Bennett to score underneath and widen the gap, 50-42.

The ensuing play saw the Lady Knights having problems bringing down the ball to

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The Lady Ayuyus' Mercedes Mesa goes for a running jumper against the Lady Knights during the opening game in the girls' varsity division of the MISO caging Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

200 Japanese joining Festival of Runs

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REPORTER

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Last year's full marathon top finisher (women's division) Mamiko Oshima-Berger.

Close to 200 runners from Japan have registered for the 2009 Winter Festival of Runs, which will be holding three races on Jan. 17.

The list includes Japanese celebrity Okushi Erika, who joined last year's race, and 30 travel agents, who are part of Northwest Airlines' familiarization tour.

Runners will be competing in the full marathon (42.195km), half marathon (21.079) and the 10K Fun Run. Courses in the three races will allow runners to enjoy the scenic views of Saipan.

Interested participants who want to avail of the lower entrance fee have only until today to register. Registration fee paid on or before Jan.

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Alphabet soup

At a party last weekend, a friend of mine, let's call him Fred Fan, approached me with a scowl on his face and a question on his lips, "How come you didn't show the Rose Bowl?"

"I don't have anything to do with that," I explained.

"Well, you're the sports on TV."

"Only for KSPN. I do not work for MCV. Anyway MCV didn't have the rights to show the game. ABC-7 did. The cable company just carries their channel," I informed.

Scrunching his face, he whined, "That was a big game. I really wanted to see it."

"Me too. So did a lot of people I know."And then to make it hurt more, "They got it on Guam."

Fan, frowning, fretted, "Then why didn't Saipan get the game? They don't like us or what?"

I could have said that Saipan sports fans looking forward to watching live sports have been hit on the head and knocked backward ever since ABC-7 took over with countless missed games available on the satellite plus lousy video quality that sometimes is unwatchable, like the Celtics/Lakers Christmas game that I happened to see in such fine quality while visiting Guam the week before, which was played here instead of the Rose Bowl, except for a brief, perhaps 10 minutes or so when it was aired live, as if to taunt us suffering, lowly sports fans with a tease telling us they could show it if they really wanted to before going back to basketball with video that I believe was intentionally distorted by adding snow and rolling horizontal lines to help aspirin sellers, but I didn't, instead I simply concurred, "Yep, they don't like us."

I should have told Fred Fan to thank the god of the sky that the college football BCS championship is a FOX game, not ABC, but I was at the party to enjoy myself, not get pissed off and went to get another drink.

By the way, if you need a pronunciation guide for BCS, it's this: the C is silent.

BCS still rhymes with mess and has for the last eleven years. Prior to 1998, there were two polls, one for writers and one for coaches. Some years there were split champions which seeing how unscientific and argumentative the case for one team or another can be, it's not surprising to have differing but legitimate claims to the title.

If this was pre-BCS, then I would say give to Utah, the only team to go undefeated. But this is BCS time, and they didn't even get a chance to play a conference champion, much less the No. 1 or No. 2 team. So nice season, Utes, but beating an unmotivated runner-up doesn't make you a champion. If they want to complain, they have to stand in line.

Texas, who agreed to that crazy Big 12 tiebreaker rule, can't blame anyone except themselves. Sure, they belonged in the BCS championship game over Oklahoma but get no sympathy after needing a questionable line spot and boneheaded defensive play calling to get by pathetic Ohio State, from the pathetic Big 10 which went 1-6 in bowl games this season. Any conference that has eleven teams and calls themselves the Big 10 has something intrinsically wrong with it.

Ditto for USC. The Trojans may have the best team this season but beating a Big 10 team in the Rose Bowl gets no brownie points.

The BCS is basically a one game playoff between the top two mysteriously ranked teams. That's Oklahoma and Florida. The winner gets all the marbles.

If you don't like it, don't go to the Whine Department. They ran out of complaint forms.